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9 Arts & Entertainment
Madonna poised on a Hot Tin Roof



12 Gardener's Corner
Fabulous furcisia



7 International
Peace problems in N. Ireland

INDEX

Arts & Entertainment	9
Business	13
Family Matters	11
Movies, TV, Crossword	19
Opinion	10
Sports	20

UN upgrades Palestinian observer status

By MARILYN HENRY and JAY BUSHINSKY

The United Nations General Assembly voted 124-4 yesterday to modify the Palestinians' status at the UN, while affirming that the Palestinian delegation remains an observer.

"This is a hollow victory for the PLO," said Ambassador to the UN Dore Gold. "Nonetheless, we view the intention of the Palestinian delegation to achieve a symbolic shift in their UN rights and privileges as an attempt to undermine

the bilateral basis of negotiations and as inconsistent with the Oslo Agreement."

Under the resolution, the Palestinian observer has no right to present candidates for UN committees, no right to vote, no right to generate resolutions, and no right to sit with member states in the General Assembly, Gold noted.

The resolution, however, does give the Palestinians the right to participate in general debates in the assembly, to raise points of order on proceedings dealing with Palestinians and the Middle East,

to co-sponsor draft resolutions on Palestinians and Middle East issues, and to be seated immediately after non-member states - but before other observers - in the General Assembly.

Israel opposed the resolution along with the US, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. There were 10 abstentions.

Observer status was granted to the PLO in 1974; the designation was modified in 1988 when the General Assembly renamed the delegation "Palestine."

Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu contended that the Palestinians had not achieved their objective of winning international recognition of their entity as a virtual state.

Netanyahu also "appreciated" the effort expended by the US and the European leaders with whom he spoke in preventing an operational upgrading of the PLO's status at the UN.

"This Palestinian initiative was disturbing, as well as a breach of the Oslo Accords," he went on. "The Palestinians' goal of being considered a state within the world

organization is something for which they should have waited until the conclusion of the final-status negotiations."

Netanyahu said that in this case, "the Europeans acted responsibly." He said the Palestinians won "only minor corrections of their current status at the UN."

He went on to praise American and European "consistency" on this issue and declared that the Palestinians' political status cannot be "preempted by unilateral acts."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On, however, deplored

the resolution.

"This decision creates a negative precedent that contradicts the principles of the peace process and the spirit of the Oslo Accords," he said.

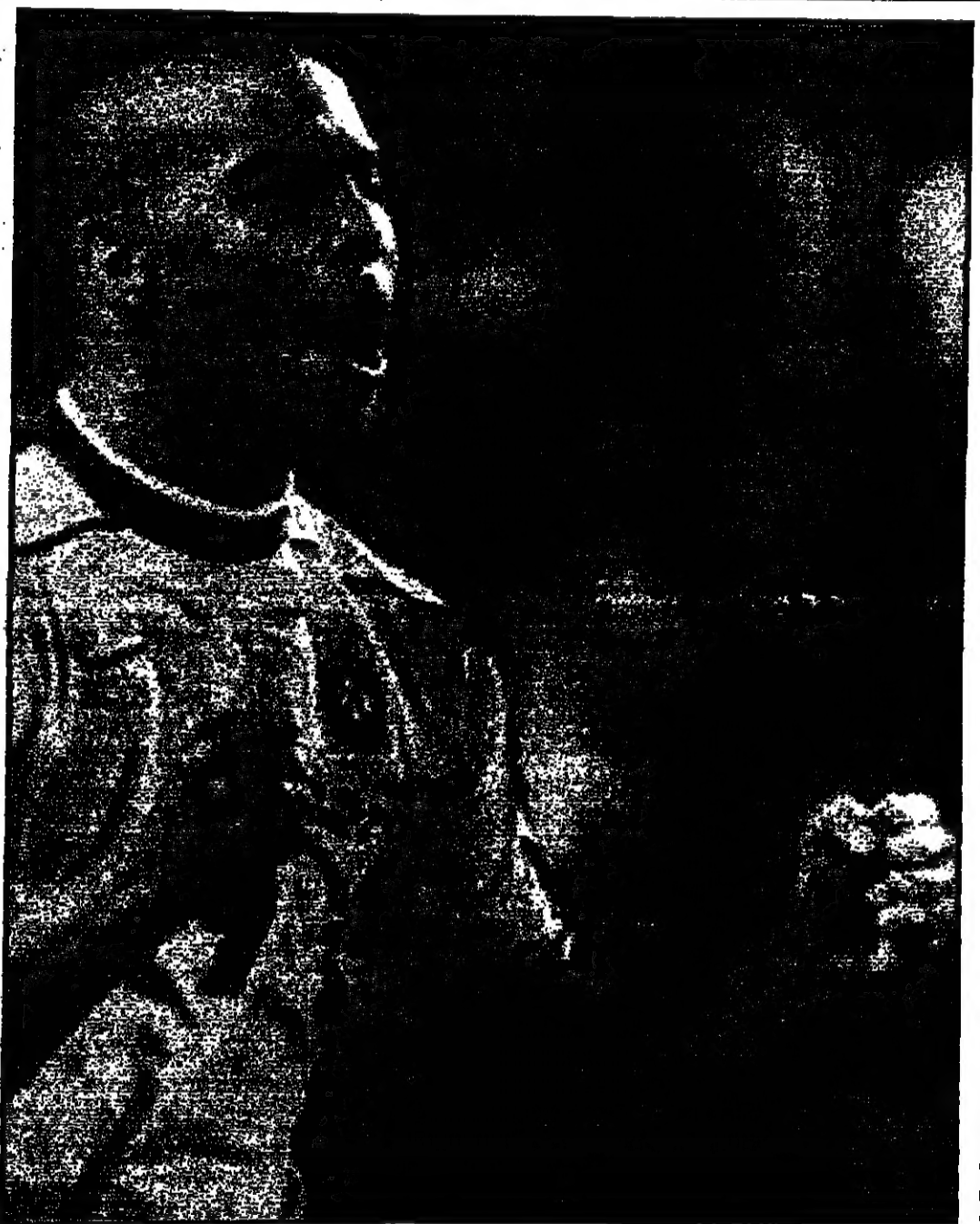
"Once again the PLO has involved the UN in issues which do not belong within its forum and whose place is in bilateral negotiations."

"Israel calls upon the PLO not to take unilateral steps in the international arena which harm the peace process and urges the international community not to support such measures."

The US argued that UN action would undermine efforts to get the peace process on track.

"This is the wrong resolution at the wrong time," US Ambassador Bill Richardson told the assembly. "Focusing on symbols likely to divide, rather than on steps to promote cooperation, will lead us nowhere," he said. "Supporting unilateral gestures which will raise suspicion and mistrust between negotiating partners will not take us closer to our goal."

See UN, Page 2



Brazil through to final
Brazil's Ronaldo celebrates his goal against Holland yesterday. Brazil won the game on penalties. Match report, Page 20.

13% pullback decision expected today

By JAY BUSHINSKY, HILLEL KUTTLER, and news agencies

The inner cabinet is expected to give conditional approval today for a 13 percent withdrawal from the West Bank, despite the acrimonious and politically charged atmosphere in which its deliberations are taking place, a source said yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry already has started planning a diplomatic offensive to be launched the day after this decision is reached, the source added. The campaign's objective would be to win maximum political credit for Israel within the international community and prove the existence of a national commitment to the regional peace process.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday that it would be possible "within the next few days" to gauge Palestinian compliance with the commitments made in the Oslo Accords. "It is our common desire to fully implement the peace process," Netanyahu said.

His fellow members of the inner cabinet are Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

In Washington, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said yesterday that US President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross "have all been actively involved" in trying to break the negotiations stalemate and in "trying to get these guys [Israel and the Palestinians] off the dime."

In an interview Monday night on CNN's *Larry King Live* program, Albright said she believes the process is progressing.

"I was on the phone intensively in the last 48 hours, even while I was on airplanes," with Prime Minister Netanyahu, said Albright, who had just returned from Clinton's visit to China.

"I think we are coming closer. If we weren't coming closer, we would try a different tack... We are working it every day. And we have intensive phone calls and try to work it issue by issue. And I'm hopeful that we will come to a resolution."

Netanyahu contended that the differences which plagued his government's intermittent dealings with US mediators have been virtually resolved. This was echoed by an aide's assessment that his phone conversations with Albright "went very well."

Netanyahu said consummation of the impending withdrawal depends primarily on the Palestinian Authority's fulfillment of its standing commitments, including the convening of the Palestinian National Council for the formal annulment of the Palestinian National Covenant and the arrest of terrorists.

"We look forward to these obligations being fulfilled at long last," he said, adding that it will be possible to test PA compliance within a few days.

The source said that ministers are likely to approve the withdrawal package, as long as the Palestinians agree to Netanyahu's demands.

However, a PA statement read over the Voice of Palestine yesterday rejected the terms set by Netanyahu. It said the PA would not convene the Palestinian National Council to change the Covenant.

It also said that the PA would not agree to Netanyahu's demands for a crackdown on unlicensed weapons in PA-controlled areas or to the extradition of Palestinians wanted by Israel for attacks.

Nevertheless, Mordechai said yesterday that a cabinet decision on the second redeployment could be made "within days." Speaking after a meeting with top IDF and security officers during a tour of Gush Etzion, he said that even after the decision the details would take some time to be worked out. In a closed meeting earlier with soldiers, the defense minister said that any redeployment would be carried out gradually in order for the troops to fully understand who controls what.

"In any case, it won't take longer than 12 weeks," Mordechai told the troops.

Mordechai said the "moment of truth" has come and repeated what has become his mantra since he returned from Cairo on June 2: "The time has come to make decisions."

"I am speaking of a few days to make a decision, after which there



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai consults with Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan in Gush Etzion yesterday. (Flash 90)

will be the process of working out the details and discussing them with various elements," Mordechai said. "Decisions need just a few days and discussions and reaching an agreement to implement them need more time."

"From this moment, time is not on anyone's side. We have to take advantage of the time to reach agreements and progress," Mordechai said.

Mordechai said his maps of national and security interests would be the basis of any cabinet decision. He added that it is up to the cabinet to decide "whether it is going to harm these interests in order to advance the process. The cabinet has been authorized to make these decisions," Mordechai added.

He also stressed that the Palestinians are obligated to carry through with their part of the agreement.

Meanwhile, Sharon said yesterday that he would propose a "new direction" for the talks with the Palestinians if the current process reaches a point of stalemate. His plan involves handing over less territory, but giving the Palestinians other benefits, he said, without elaborating.

"If the process reaches a point where it is unable to progress further... we will have to in these circumstances perhaps try a different direction," Sharon told reporters after a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"You are ignoring the main thing, which is that within a few months Arafat will have more than 42 percent of Judea and Samaria without having given anything in return," Sharon said.

Arieh O'Sullivan, Liat Collins, and Steve Rodan contributed to this report.

Haredi draft bills expected to fail

By LIAT COLLINS

Despite last-minute efforts to mobilize a majority, opposition MKs yesterday admitted that the bills calling for a limit to the number of yeshiva students exempt from the military draft are unlikely to pass preliminary reading when they come up today.

The bill by Labor Party leader Ehud Barak calls for a quota of 700 exemptions; the bill by MK Ophir Pines (Labor), 500; and the bill by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), 400.

The bills will come up without prior discussion in the Knesset House Committee, after both

Meretz and the haredi parties dropped objections.

"The situation does not look bright, but we are working on it," Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt

High Court hears plea to end draft deferments, Page 4

said. "We expect some coalition MKs to either vote for the bills or at least abstain."

Some Tsomet and Third Way MKs might not vote against the

bills, either abstaining or absenting themselves. This includes Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg and MK Pini Badash, who presented similar bills that failed in the spring.

The Arab parties will decide officially before the vote how to act, although yesterday the Arab MKs said their tendency is to vote against.

MK Taleb A-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) said they are concerned that such bills would result in a similar move demanding compulsory military or civil national service for Arab Israelis.

See DRAFT, Page 2

Los Angeles to restore 'Jazz Singer' shul

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES - The grand old Breed Street Shul, once the glory of a thriving Jewish community and the site of Al Jolson's rendition of *Kol Nidre* in *The Jazz Singer*, has been saved from decay and oblivion by the Los Angeles City Council.

The city council, some of whose members have family ties to the synagogue, voted unanimously last week to acquire the 75-year-

old synagogue and turn it over to the Jewish Historical Society of Southern California in a year.

When the shul was founded in 1923, with movie mogul Louis B. Mayer as its first president, it was the religious center of Boyle Heights, which was dubbed "the lower East Side of Los Angeles" and then home to 90,000 Jews.

The enclave in east Los Angeles was dotted with kosher food stores and restaurants; it even included an "official" Jewish bordello. On High Holy Days, every one of the 1,100 seats in the Orthodox synagogue, formally the Congregation Talmud Torah, was filled, with 300-400 worshippers standing outside, listening to the service.

Starting in the 1940s, the Jews

of Boyle Heights emigrated to the tonier west side of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley to the north.

Over the years, the building deteriorated, vandals, crack users and prostitutes trashed the sanctuary, and earthquakes threatened to collapse the building entirely.

As the Jews moved out of the neighborhood, Latinos moved in and the name of the main thoroughfare was changed from Brooklyn Avenue to Cesar Chavez Avenue.

Ten years ago, the Jewish Historical Society and the Los Angeles Conservancy launched a campaign to save the historic building. Members of the two groups cheered the city council's vote last week to take over its

ownership.

The battle is far from over and millions of dollars in private funds will have to be raised to repair and retrofit the structure.

"It's definitely a daunting task," said Stephen Sass, president of the historical society, "but we're excited by the support we have."

Sass envisions that in the future the building will house a historical museum, small synagogue and community service center for the present population.

The restoration has the support of both Jewish and Latino activists, who hope that the restructured building will serve as a bond between the two ethnic communities and repair ties currently strained by political rivalries.

IDF intervenes to let Palestinians through settler roadblock

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and STEVE RODAN

Gush Katif settlers tried yesterday afternoon to block a PA convoy from traveling along the Gaza Strip's disputed coastal road, but the standoff ended after an hour when the IDF intervened to let the Palestinian vehicles through.

The Palestinian convoy, which included diplomats, was led by Preventive Security Chief Mohammed Dahlan.

The settlers said they were astonished to see the IDF accom-

panying the convoy along the road, just several days after a lengthy standoff between the IDF and PA officials over right-of-pas-

Remand of second 'Hebron horseman', Page 3

sage on the same route.

A senior security source concurred, calling the attempts by PA officials to use the road a provocation.

The source said the IDF allowed the PA to pass through to avoid confrontation and added that he did not think a quick agreement on the PA demands for full access to the coastal road would be forthcoming. This is because the IDF will have to convince Gush Katif residents that opening the road fully will not harm their security.

The road crosses the Gush Katif settlements, connecting the south and central regions of the Gaza Strip.

See ROADBLOCK Page 2

NEWS

in brief

US appeals court: Clinton guards must testify

A US appeals court ruled yesterday that President Bill Clinton's Secret Service guards must testify in the Monica Lewinsky sex-and-perjury investigation. In a major victory for independent counsel Kenneth Starr, the appeals court rejected the Clinton administration's request to create a "protective function" privilege to shield the guards from having to disclose what they observe on duty.

The unanimous three-judge panel ruled that Secret Service officers may be compelled to testify to a federal grand jury. The appeals court flatly dismissed the Secret Service's arguments that requiring the testimony of its officers will jeopardize its ability to effectively protect the president.

Wilner struck by car on crosswalk

Former MK Meir Wilner, 79, suffered moderate head injuries yesterday when he was struck by a car on a crosswalk while crossing Rehov Herbert Samuel in Tel Aviv. The driver of the car was held for questioning.

Wilner, a veteran Communist Party leader, and Dr. Zerach Warhaftig are the only surviving signatories of the Declaration of Independence.

Mofaz to become CGS tomorrow

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak will tomorrow hand over the command of the IDF to Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, who will be promoted to lieutenant general. Mofaz will receive his new rank at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office. From there, he and Shahak will proceed to Camp Rabin in Tel Aviv for the formal transfer of command.

South African minister arrives

South African Foreign Minister Aziz Gulam Hussein Fahar landed in Israel yesterday and proceeded directly to Jerusalem, where he began a Middle East tour. The official Israeli portion of his tour begins tomorrow.

The Itim news agency quoted Avraham Toledo, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general in charge of its African department, as saying that great importance is being attached to Fahar's presence here.

This assessment is based on the fact that Fahar is regarded as a close associate of South Africa's vice president, Tabo Embeki, who is expected to run for the presidency in next year's election.

Woman gets 18 months for boyfriend's murder

Rina Hirschtig, 43, of Kibbutz Deganya Bet, was sentenced yesterday to 18 months' imprisonment and 18 months' suspended for obstruction of justice and intimidating witnesses in connection with the murder of her boyfriend Ya'acov Sela, 34, known as "The Snake Catcher."

On May 18, her son Harel was sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1996 murder.

The Haifa District Court noted that Rina Hirschtig did not have a criminal record and was drawn into the case by her son, who murdered Sela to hide the fact that he had stolen NIS 49,000 from him.

Law banning bakeries' night work dropped

The Knesset yesterday rescinded a nearly 50-year-old, widely-ignored law which bans bakeries from operating at night.

The original ban, passed in 1951, forbade the operation of bakeries between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. in an effort to protect workers from night work. However, all the major bakeries worked illegally.

The move to change the situation and rescind the ban came from Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg. The punishment for violation of the ban was determined in 1951 to be a month's prison sentence and a five lira fine.

Ma'aleh Adumim mayor opposes plans for Jerusalem 'umbrella'

By AMY KLEIN

The mayor of Ma'aleh Adumim yesterday said he opposes the government's proposal to incorporate the city into a Jerusalem "umbrella" municipality.

The plan, says Mayor Benny Kashriel, would give the Jerusalem municipality authority over its affairs and those of other

areas surrounding Jerusalem.

"We want to remain an independent city and we don't want to be a part of Jerusalem in any way," said Kashriel.

He heads a group known as the Forum of Sovereign Jerusalem, which represents West Bank areas near Jerusalem, such as Ma'aleh Adumim, Har Adar and Givat Ze'ev, all of which are included in

the umbrella plan.

The Forum decided yesterday to issue a letter of protest to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The Forum is willing to create an umbrella coalition for our municipalities together with Jerusalem to discuss issues of mutual interest—such as sewerage, transportation, and infrastructure," said Uri Ya'akovi, the spokesman

for the municipality. "But we are unwilling to be under Jerusalem, subject to their authority."

Ma'aleh Adumim doesn't need to be annexed or absorbed into Jerusalem to ensure its future as part of the State of Israel, said Ya'akovi, because "it's a national consensus that we are part of the country."

Protests from areas near the cap-

ital do not seem to have deterred officials intent on an enlargement of Jerusalem's role.

"Everyone says they support strong Jerusalem as the capital of Israel," Uri Wexler, director-general of the Jerusalem Development Authority, told Israel Radio yesterday. "But when it comes to practical matters, they all say 'don't touch my neighborhood'."

Turkish FM: Ties with Israel do not harm our neighbors

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said his country's relations with Israel is a topic that is outside the realm of diplomatic debate. He stressed that by holding to this principle, Ankara has been able to maintain normal ties with all of its Middle Eastern neighbors.

Cem spoke at an impromptu news conference convened in conjunction with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the end of a meeting in which bilateral links in a multitude of fields—military, economic and cultural—were discussed.

"We are trying to have better relations with all of our neighbors—to the east, west, north and south," Cem alluding to his country's past and present problems with Greece, Iraq, Iran and Syria.

The thrust of his frank and open approach to regional diplomacy was that Turkey's relations with Israel "do not harm any other country." This was meant to reassure Syria, Iraq and Iran that they had no reason to be concerned about the military and strategic aspects of the Jerusalem-Ankara links.

Netanyahu contended that Turkey has "excellent relations" with Israel as well as with its Arab neighbors. He said its "historical and current connections with all our people" is a factor which could "come into use" in the framework of the Middle East peace process.

In a parallel development, Cem's visit to Israel was welcomed by Cyprus' Ambassador Euripides Evripiades. In an allusion to Cem's Israeli hosts, the envoy said, "We hope our friends will convince Turkey of the benefits that would accrue to all from a solution to the problem of divided Cyprus."



Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem speaks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday. (Kevin Unger)

PA move at UN inevitable

ANALYSIS

The Palestinian autonomy referred to in the 1979 Camp David Accords, the 1993 agreement between the PLO and Israel signed at the White House (Oslo I) and the 1995 interim agreement regarding transfer of power in the West Bank (Oslo II) were all gradual steps in the advancement of relations between the Palestinians and Israel.

At the same time, they were stages towards the increasing acceptance of the PLO in the international arena.

For many years the PLO delegation at the UN has had the status of observer from "Palestine."

Its members have the right to address the General Assembly and can also participate in Security Council debates on issues that relate to them.

We have spoken in tandem at Security Council meetings several times and have both addressed sessions of the General Assembly on issues relating to the peace process and in dispute between us. An examination of the new resolutions passed by the General Assembly indicates that there is no intention of accepting the PLO as a voting member of the UN. It will not be able to introduce resolutions of its own, but will be allowed to join resolutions presented by others, just as in the past.

Nor can it be elected to the various UN organizations, though its members will be able to attend their meetings as invited observers. This, too, is nothing new. That they will be moved to a different location in the plenum may have some symbolic value, but nothing more.

However, it should be recalled that we have signed accords with the Palestinians that are meant to lead to a permanent agreement, that will someday allow for the existence of a self-determining Palestinian entity. It is to be hoped we understand the implications of this.

Therefore, what our UN delegation did, in relying on the US, was correct. At the same time, we should view what has happened with a correct sense of proportion and understand that this was not a dramatic turning point, but an inevitable development.

The writer was Israel's ambassador to the UN from 1992-1996.

M. Eitan submits his resignation

By JUDY SIEGEL

Science Minister Michael Eitan yesterday submitted his resignation, which will take effect in 48 hours.

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom will take over for him, to carry out a rotation agreement signed a year ago between the two Likud MKs.

In his letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Eitan said it would look pedantic and unneces-

sary in the public's eyes for him to become science minister in exactly another year, when he was scheduled to remain in the job for just eight months and then be replaced again by Shalom for another eight months.

Instead, Eitan said, Shalom will serve as science minister for 20 months and Eitan will take over as science minister eight months before the next elections in the year 2000.

Shalom is due to be sworn in on Monday, and the changing of the guard ceremony is expected to be on Tuesday.

Eitan will be a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office, with responsibility as liaison between the government and the Knesset, as well as for HILA, the office in charge of overseeing government computerization and networking.

Eitan will not lose his car, spokesman or secretary.

Engineer battalion soldiers to Mordechai: "We want our share of action"

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

After being prodded to ask questions by the defense minister, soldier after soldier got up yesterday and practically begged to be sent to Lebanon and be given missions that will earn them more recognition and appreciation.

Members of one of the IDF's combat engineer battalions are suffering from an inferiority complex.

The combat engineers are currently responsible for the security around Gush Etzion, Rachel's Tomb and the Herodian.

And when they take up their post

in the North, they are only deployed inside the borders and not in the "hot" areas in the security zone.

Those roles are reserved for the Paratrooper, Golani, Givati and Nahal brigades.

"I don't understand," said one soldier. "We get the same infantry training as the other brigades, but we have consistently been deployed only along the northern border and never inside Lebanon."

"We have no pride in our unit," said another.

Mordechai responded to the packed mess hall with a pep talk, extolling the virtues of the engi-

neering corps and how much expensive, top-of-the-line equipment has been channeled to them.

"If war breaks out, heaven forbid, the front-line missions will belong to the engineers," Mordechai said. "Your jobs will be to break through the obstacles, and this is the most important role."

One company commander said he and his soldiers felt frustrated that they were not being deployed in Lebanon and sharing in the burden there. Instead, they were sent to the Hermon.

"True, it is not like the Reihan, or Sijud ridges or the Beaufort," Mordechai replied. But it is a very sensitive and complicated front.

He asked how many felt they were being appreciated and none raised their hands.

"That's the problem right there," Mordechai said. "You have to be proud of what you do in the army, and it is up to you. You have the missions, you have the commanders and the quality. You now must have pride in your unit."

Another soldier got into a running debate with Mordechai, saying they were not given equal equipment like the infantry units. When Mordechai pressed him on what specifically he was referring to, the soldier said they would like to have mini M-16 assault rifles instead of their standard issue.

"Consider it done," Mordechai said. Outside, Mordechai appeared pleased with the encounter.

"They are only asking for more missions, weapons and capabilities," said Mordechai. "This should be the only complaints we hear."

UN

Continued from Page 1

Nasser Kidwa, the Palestinian observer, said: "A small victory was achieved for Palestine today, and we thank you all for that."

He said he hoped the Palestinians would be made full members, with voting power, in the near future. "That shall be a big victory," he said.

However, Richardson said the resolution would "hurt everyone's interests, including those it is most intended to help."

The European Union was the pivotal actor in the debate, which first began last December. At that time, the Arab Group tried to upgrade the Palestinian observer's status by extending the definition of observer in order to get "quasi-state" rights.

The December resolution was withdrawn after the EU led what amounted to a procedural defeat in the assembly. Yesterday's resolution was negotiated by the EU and the Arab Group. Once the EU

agreed to support the resolution, its passage was assured.

Austria, which currently holds the leadership of the EU, had insisted that the resolution would not upgrade the Palestinians' observer status at the UN.

"This is not a change in status," said Hans Peter Manz, the deputy ambassador at the UN mission of Austria, told The Jerusalem Post on Monday. Instead, he said, "We are defining the observer status explicitly."

Hillel Kuttler adds from Washington:

The White House criticized yesterday's UN upgrading of the Palestinian's status as a "unilateral" step that is inconsistent with the peace process.

Spokesman Mike McCurry said the move was an effort to "presuppose certain so-called final-status issues."

"It's got nothing to do with resolving the real issues that will bring peace in that region," McCurry told reporters. "It's got everything to do with short-term political symbolism."

DRAFT

Continued from Page 1

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) has in the past raised such a bill, and yesterday he refused to promise he would not bring it up again in the future.

Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday apparently put pressure on Yisrael Ba'Aliya leader Natan Sharansky to make his MKs vote with the coalition, the party, including its two ministers, is expected to abstain in an effort to force dialogue with the haredim.

The National Religious Party will meet before the vote to decide its stand, although the majority of its MKs oppose the bills.

Although the NRP favors the

draft, it feels Barak's bill is a publicity and political stunt, according to NRP whip Shmariya Ben-Tsur.

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom and Knesset Law Committee Chairman Hanan Port are reportedly still undecided.

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom is scheduled to respond to the bills on the government's behalf.

CORRECTION
The headline to yesterday's report concerning the future makeup of the personnel of the Israeli Embassy in Washington should have read "Shoval, Foreign Ministry works committee differ over US embassy personnel" and not as printed.

ROADBLOCK

Continued from Page 1

Yesterday's dispute occurred as the PA Information Ministry was taking diplomats stationed in Gaza for a tour to demonstrate that the settlements have hindered Palestinian development in the area, and that Arab motorists are forced to travel long distances to bypass IDF roadblocks.

"We were on a tour of the region and were talking to the military to allow us to pass for just this one time," said Khaled Khatib, a PA official. "The settlers came and blocked the road, using their cars, to make sure nobody passes."

The settlers cited senior sources as saying that Israel intends to accede to Palestinian requests for free passage along the coastal road.

Shlomo Kostiner, a spokesman for Gush Katif settlers, said they are extremely concerned about the report. Some settlers have threatened to block the road with their bodies if it is officially opened to Palestinian traffic.

David Bar-Ilan, director of communications in the Prime Minister's Office, said yesterday that the Palestinians are entitled to access the road if security officials believe they pose no threat. He added that any change in policy would be made by security officials.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Mr. David Zeligman will speak on "Indonesia in Context."

Boy, 3, run over in front of father

Three-year-old Yonatan Levi was killed yesterday when he apparently slipped from his father's grasp and fell under the front wheel of an Egged bus in Migdal Ha'emek.

The driver was questioned and released, although the police investigation continues.

In another accident early yesterday, 17-year-old Guy Arush of Ashkelon lost control of the car he was driving without a license and was killed when it overturned. A passenger, Gili Shalalashvili, 28, was moderately injured.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing, in old age, of

LOTTE JACOBY

The funeral took place yesterday at the Kiryat Tivon Cemetery.

Mourning by:

Her daughter, Sarah

grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Livnot U'lehibanot

offers its condolences to

Tzvi Sperber

on the passing of his

FATHER ז"ל

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Sharon denies water deal with Jordan

By LIAT COLLINS

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday dismissed as "untrue and fanciful" reports that he had secretly drawn up plans for a water agreement with Jordan which would affect Israel's water reserves.

The charge initially came from Agriculture Ministry Director-General Danny Kreitchman, who said Sharon had signed an agreement with the Jordanians without any prior discussion and without reporting to Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan or the government. Kreitchman said the policy would seriously affect the water sources of between 60 and 100 communities.

Sharon said he had not and does not intend adding "a single cubic meter of water to what was agreed on as part of the agreement with Jordan."

"In a meeting in Akaba a year ago with the prime minister, national infrastructure minister, King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, it was openly agreed on, without any secrecy, to add for three years 25 million cubic meters of water until a desalination plant can be established, as clearly agreed on in the peace agreement with Jordan," said Sharon's spokesman Ra'anan Gissin.

Sharon also said reports that an

additional 150 million cubic meters of water a year had been added to the Palestinian Authority were "unfounded and baseless."

On another matter, Sharon reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting yesterday that Israel has reduced its strategic emergency reserves of gas and oil. Sharon said Israel has no problem in purchasing gas and oil from different bodies around the world, which allows it to reduce its reserves.

He said that Israel plans to move over to the use of natural gas in the coming years and is currently working on the establishment of a company to supply and operate this.

Sharon also said that the Palestinian Authority is considering establishing an electric power station instead of paying Israel for its electricity supplies. Sharon said the PA is looking for foreign investors in the project because the power station is not economically viable.

Sharon added that even if the project does get off the ground, Israel will not allow the Palestinians to establish a separate electrical grid within Israel. They must use the existing local grid, as is the accepted practice in locations where one entity carries electricity through the territory of another, he said.

New Syrian intelligence chief named

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

The shakeup in the Syrian army command has continued this week, as Syrian President Hafez Assad named a new head for the country's powerful intelligence service, reports from Cairo said.

Maj.-Gen. Mahmoud Saqqa was named Syria's new intelligence chief, replacing Maj.-Gen. Bashir Najjar, who was dismissed a week ago, reportedly on suspicion of corruption and negligence of duty. Syrian sources and Arab diplomats told The Associated Press.

Saqqa is a veteran army officer who participated in the US-led

international coalition that drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War.

The Syrian sources and Arab diplomats said the move may be a prelude to wider changes in the government and the ruling Baath Party, including a higher army position for Assad's son Bashar. Last week, long-time Syrian chief of staff Gen. Hikmet Shihabi was replaced by Gen. Ali Aslan, who was sworn in on Sunday.

Speaking on the matter for the first time, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said that pensioning off Shihabi was inevitable. "After 24 years of serving as chief of staff, even in Syria, the

chief of staff is replaced," Mordechai told reporters during a visit with soldiers in Judea. "I think that Shihabi has apparently done everything he could do in the Syrian army. Even there he spent most of his time in political and security issues, and the one who actually managed the army was Gen. Ali Aslan. I think these changes are changes which had to be done."

Military intelligence officials have said they were taken by surprise by the latest Syrian army reshuffle.

Mordechai said he foresaw a political role for Shihabi. As for the Syrian army, he said the IDF

would be carefully observing the steps and statements of its commanders to assess which direction they are headed.

"We will watch, learn and see in which direction Ali Aslan and the new leadership in the Syrian army develop," Mordechai said. "I very much hope that the Syrian army brass and Syrian government leadership understand and are aware of our might and our capabilities and will advise the Syrian leadership to search for political ways to bring about a reduction in the conflict and find a solution through agreements and peace."

Shihabi has met with both Ehud Barak and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak

when each was chief of general staff in the peace negotiations, which have been broken off since early 1996.

Shihabi, a senior member of the Baath Party and a close associate to Assad, is expected to be named vice president for security affairs, a post which was held by Assad's brother Rifaat until he was fired in February.

Syrian opposition leaders in Europe said Assad was preparing the ground for Bashar's succession in case he dies.

Assad, 68, has diabetes and suffered a heart attack in 1983, although his grip on power remains firm.

Har-Shefi will remain student at Bar-Ilan U.

By AMY KLEIN

Bar-Ilan University's disciplinary committee yesterday decided to postpone a decision about Margalit Har-Shefi, a move that effectively allows her to retain her student status there.

The decision was based on Har-Shefi's intention to appeal her June 16 conviction. It was taken after consultations with legal experts.

"As long as the judicial proceedings regarding Har-Shefi are still under deliberation, the committee felt that it was unable to consider action against her until the appeal process is exhausted," said Bar-Ilan spokesman David Weinberg.

Two weeks ago a public ruckus erupted after Channel Two television reported that the state had been partly funding Har-Shefi's law school tuition.

The Religious Affairs Ministry denied any funding, but deputy minister Yigal Bibi said previously that he saw no reason to cut off her scholarship if the university had not expelled her and the Council for Higher Education continued to approve it.

Immediately after the Tel Aviv Magistrate's court convicted Har-Shefi, Bar-Ilan authorities lodged a formal complaint to the Disciplinary Committee to review her status.

The Bar-Ilan administration issued a statement following the committee's decision: "We wish to make clear our absolute condemnation of all those who seek to brutally influence the democratic decision-making process through violence," they wrote.

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By Yusef Begun

Questions about aliya

Improvements in Jewish life in Russia have put the issue of aliya under question, reported Mark Kolyarsky in *Vesti*.

This conclusion was presented by Prof. Rosali Rifkin of the Russian Academy of Science in Knesset last month. She pointed out five main factors that have brought about positive changes in Jewish life.

1) the emergence of a Jewish community, represented by the Russian Jewish Congress, regional communities and religious organizations;

2) The appearance of "a flourishing Jewish culture";

3) The attainment by Jews of higher positions within the system;

4) the growth of a Jewish elite in business, economics and politics;

5) the dissolution of official antisemitism, replaced by open antisemitism.

"Only if Russia turns from the direction of reforms and a dictatorship takes over authority will the Jews be in danger," concludes Rifkin, whose speech generated animated discussion.

MK Maria Solodkina (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said she and her colleagues don't see the future of the Jews in Russia through such rose-colored glasses.

Russian Sephardim

"We were respected in the coun-

tries in which we lived and had representatives in all spheres of legal and executive power. In Israel, our specialists are regarded as second-class citizens," said Dr. Sergei Ilanukaev in *Vesti*, writing about the problems of the Russian-speaking Sephardic community in Israel. It numbers 350,000 immigrants.

Among the seven MKs of Yisrael Ba'aliya, there is not one Sephardi, he stressed. He added that there are almost none of "our people in the Jewish Agency, the Histadrut, ministers, or city council."

He said the Sephardim should organize their own political movement to realize the potential voting power of the Russian Sephardic community.

Pioneering pride

In *Vremya*, Alexander Pernyuk wrote about a new campaign to "show politicians that the problem of settlements is the problem of all Israeli citizens."

Within the framework of this campaign, many citizens of the coastal area will participate in building and strengthening Jewish settlement in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The initiator of the project, David Canaan, a farmer from the Jezreel Valley, said it will be a good opportunity "even for one day to feel oneself as a pioneer like our recent ancestors, who cultivated the Land of Israel over sixty years ago."



A Jewish man stands in front of a Palestinian shop spray-painted with anti-Arab graffiti in Hebron yesterday.

Second 'Hebron horseman' suspect remanded

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday extended for 24 hours the remand of a 16-year-old Hebron hills area youth who is a suspect in last Friday night's horseback attack on a Palestinian youth and smashing of Palestinian car windshields near Kiryat Arba. Police are to ask for a further remand today.

Another suspect, Netanel Nir, 19, was remanded for five days on Sunday. Police are still searching for a third suspect in the horseback raid, in which the suspects used martial arts chains to attack people and property.

Settlers said they condemn any acts against innocent people, whether Israeli or Arab, and said Friday's incident generated a spate of sharp criticism against the entire community.

Hebron Jewish community spokesman David Wilder said Jewish residents daily have stones, bottles, and firebombs thrown at

them, but only when incidents such as last Friday's occur do they make the headlines, and the entire community is besmirched and blamed. Wilder said he blames the media to a certain extent, because of its "one-sided reports."

"When there are attacks on Arabs by settlers it always makes headlines, but whenever settlers are attacked it is ignored or portrayed in such a way that the blame is directed at us," he charged.

Speaking of recent events, Wilder said "many of these incidents are carried out by individuals who aren't even from Hebron, but are frustrated and vent their frustrations in ways we have no control over."

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled toured Hebron yesterday and met with settlers. He dubbed his visit "a strengthening mission," adding, "When you are weak or down some people take vitamins. I go to Hebron."

Peled called on students of the

Shavei Hebron Yeshiva them to prevent acts of hooliganism such as last Friday's and the attack last month in which Abdul Abu Turki, 48, was killed.

"You must do everything to prevent acts such as snatching chains on cars and murdering an innocent Arab walking along the road," he

said, adding, "these acts harm any chance of peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Jews and you must not allow the situation to deteriorate to such acts."

Peled stressed that the perpetrators of such attacks should be condemned, saying "such acts weaken our struggle."

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If passed, law would set a precedent

Minimum sentencing bill for sex crimes ready for final readings

By DAN IZENBERG

The Knesset Constitution, Legislation, and Law Committee yesterday approved for second and third reading an amendment to the penal code forcing judges to sentence sex offenders to no less than a quarter of the maximum penalty encompassed by the law.

If passed in the plenum, this law will mark the first time that the Knesset has interfered with the court's freedom to make its own decisions within the limitations set by the law.

Proponents of the legislation said the law is necessary because judges are much too lenient on sex offenders.

"The courts have brought this move on themselves," said MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz), who initiated the bill along with MK Yael Dayan (Labor). "We are saying: Since you refused of your own free will to do what the law entitles you to do - that is, hand out harsh sentences - then we, the legislature, will order you to do so."

According to MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor), who wants to increase the minimum required sentence to half the maximum, 50 percent of all convicted rapists are sentenced to two years

or less in jail, while 20% get one year or less.

The new law applies to three types of sexual offenses: rape, including sodomy in aggravated circumstances; indecent acts in aggravated circumstances in cases where the maximum sentence is

10 years in jail; and sexual crimes within the family where the maximum sentence is 10 years. Maximum rape sentences range from 16 to 20 years.

State Attorney Edna Arbel backed the bill.

"Our support stems from the fact

that the legislature must reflect society and the needs of society today are such that they require harsher sentences and minimum sentences," she said. "This is not a criticism of the courts. The fact is that crime has escalated and become more violent and more

brutal." Arbel added that 60% of the state's appeals against allegedly lenient sentences by the courts involve sexual crimes.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat attended the meeting out of her own personal concern for the issue. She told the committee that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also supports the bill.

Seven committee members voted for the bill. None voted against, although in the preliminary discussion, MK Reuven Rivlin (Likud) appeared to oppose it. Rivlin did not participate in the vote.

Committee chairman Hanan Porat (NRP) said the committee would closely monitor the effect of the law on the decisions of the bench in the future.

Some participants in the meeting warned that if the law passed, some judges would automatically hand out the minimum sentence or prefer to exonerate the suspect on grounds of reasonable doubt rather than hand out a sentence they believe to be too harsh.

Dayan told the committee that she would regard passage of the legislation as the fulfillment of her mission in the Knesset.

Chief public defender opposes bill

By NOAH STREET

Chief Public Defender Kenneth Mann came out against the bill outlining for minimum sentences for sex crimes.

"I have serious reservations about the present law," Mann said of the bill which was approved yesterday for second and third reading in the Knesset.

"I think the sentence should be individualized, that is, judges should be able to take into account multiple factors. Limiting their discretion... is going to result in more serious sentences for the cases which are the least serious."

"The [bill would] raise the floor, rather than giving guide-

lines for judges which would require them... to raise the mean sentencing," Mann continued. "The point is that this [bill] restricts discretion in respect to the least serious of the range of rapes."

"What people don't understand is that many of these crimes are being committed in extenuating circumstances," he said.

Nevertheless, women's organizations were quite happy that the bill may soon become law. Both Na'amat and the Israel Women's Network issued statements saying that it was of prime importance to pass this bill.

In marginal cases, Mann said, a judge may be inclined to find the defendant innocent because the

judge may feel that the minimum sentence for the crime does not reflect the seriousness of the case.

However, Israel Women's Network spokeswoman Orit Sulitzeanu pointed out that "there is a stipulation within the law that allows the judges, under certain conditions, to give lighter sentences. We obviously hope they will not use it frequently, but this will deal with the problem of judges feeling they are not free to sentence."

Mann said that despite the stipulation Sulitzeanu referred to, "there is still an inappropriate restraint upon the judges" because the stipulation is based upon special circumstances.

Zvilli: Haredim, Arabs made deal against draft bill

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor MK Nissim Zvilli yesterday accused the haredi parties of making a deal with the Arab parties to ensure the latter vote against Labor leader Ehud Barak's induction bill, which is to be voted on today.

The Arab parties said yesterday they would not support the induction bill, but denied having reached any deal with the haredim.

Without the support of Arab MKs, the bill has little chance of passing.

Zvilli said Shas and United Torah Judaism promised the Arabs to prevent the legislation of a compulsory national service bill, which the Arabs are opposed to, in exchange for the Arab parties' voting against the bill for drafting yeshiva students.

"The leaders of the Arab parties are also in touch with the haredi ministers of housing [from UTJ] and interior [from Shas] to settle the paybacks and benefits to be given the Arabs for their agreement," Zvilli said.

Labor's induction bill applies only to haredi men, not to the draft of Arabs.

Leaders of the Arab parties demanded that Labor promise not to support a future national service bill, which they fear is next in line, as a condition for supporting Barak's bill.

But Labor refused to make that commitment, which is against its platform.

"We were prepared to promise the Arab factions that until there is legislation ensuring complete equality between Jews and Arabs in Israel, we would not support a national service bill for Arabs," Zvilli said.

MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) said there was no deal with the haredi parties. As for the induction bill, Darawshe said that "first they must promise equality to all the state's citizens before trying to draft all the sectors."

Darawshe said the policy toward Israeli Arabs has not changed for the past 50 years, including the decision not to draft them to the IDF.

"For 50 years there has been discrimination against Arabs," he said. "Only after that is abolished can the authorities come with clean hands to increase our duties as citizens."

New forum inaugurated for religious-feminist women

By LIAT COLLINS

There were many more women in the Knesset yesterday, but they were only visitors, members of the Forum for Religious Women. The apolitical and unaffiliated forum, which was formally inaugurated during activities yesterday, is the initiative of Hanna Kehat and was

promoted by MK Alex Lubotzky (Third Way).

Lubotzky said the forum is necessary, because "the voice of a very important part of the religious sector is not heard in the Israeli public and that is the voice of the woman who is committed on the one hand to religion and Halacha and on the other to values

of feminism and equality."

Lubotzky expressed the hope that in the next Knesset there would be more women members and that they would include religious women.

Kehat said the forum's first aim is to close gaps, including in this area. She said she hoped the National Religious Party and Meimad, if it runs, would include women members on their Knesset lists.

Although the women at yesterday's meeting reflected the political Left and Right, different religious streams and both militant and moderate feminists, they basically agreed on some common fields in which they believe religious women should be more active.

Anat Hoffman, a woman's activist and Meretz Jerusalem councillor noted that it had been said that if women miss a day's work or are away from home their absence is felt, but if they are not present in religious activity, nobody feels it.

After the greetings, which included a message from the director of the rabbinical courts, Eli Ben-Dahan, the members of the new forum sat down to a Talmud lesson.



Are you going to play or suck your thumb?

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon tries to play patty-cake yesterday with one of a group of young cancer patients visiting the Knesset. (Isaac Harari)

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High Court hears plea to end yeshiva draft deferments

By DAN IZENBERG

A panel of 11 High Court justices, headed by President Aharon Barak, yesterday wound up deliberations on two petitions calling for an end to the automatic draft deferral granted by the minister of defense to all yeshiva students. Barak said the court would give its

decision at a later date. Petitioners MKs Amnon Rubinstein and Haim Oron (Meretz) were represented by Ra'anana Har-Zahav, while attorney Yehuda Ressler represented himself and a group of Tel Aviv University students. Ressler told the court some 17,000 students, including 1,700 high school

seniors, had signed a petition supporting his action.

Rubinstein and Oron are demanding the imposition of what they call a "reasonable ceiling" on the number of exemptions. When asked by the judges what constituted "reasonable," Har-Zahav suggested adopting the recommendation of a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Subcommittee report, calling for granting deferrals to 3 percent of the age cohort each year.

Last year, some 8 percent of all 18-year-olds eligible for the draft were granted deferrals on the grounds that they studied in yeshiva. Ressler called for the abolition of the deferrals altogether. However, in deference to the court's obvious reluctance to decide a question of such monumental social and political importance, he suggested the ruling be postponed for six months to a year, to give the government and the Knesset time to act.

"I do not want to involve the Supreme Court in this social tempest," said Ressler. "Let the Knesset and the government make the effort to resolve this issue. But, he continued, 'if the government can't decide, let us decide for it.'"

The judges peppered Har-Zahav and Ressler with questions. Justice Theodore Orr wanted to know why the petitioners did not leave the issue for the Knesset to decide, especially since it is due to vote in preliminary reading on Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak's bill on the issue.

Justice Yitzhak Engelhard asked the lawyers whether their demand to draft yeshiva students was not a violation of freedom of religion.

Justice Dalia Dorner asked the petitioners' response to the fact that the army says it has no use for the yeshiva students.

Justice Mishael Cheshin asked Har-Zahav how he could agree to even the smallest quota of deferrals, which would set those receiving them apart from the rest of the population, thus violating the principle of equality.

In response to Dorner, Har-Zahav argued that the army had never actually tested the hypothesis that yeshiva students do not make good soldiers.

"The yeshiva students are a diverse group," he said. "They include extremely Orthodox boys who perhaps are not suited to army service, students at main-

stream yeshivas, high school graduates, and newly observant. The only way to ascertain their military potential is to examine each one individually."

In response to Cheshin, Har-Zahav argued that a certain number of deserving yeshiva students could be deferred each year, such as outstanding students or those obviously unsuited.

By agreeing to a limited number of deferrals, his clients were acknowledging the importance of Torah studies, Har-Zahav explained.

As for Engelhard, Har-Zahav noted that, while the US government has allowed the Amish sect not to send their children to public schools because of their religious principles, unlike the Amish, yeshiva students constitute a large proportion of the population and their unwillingness to join the army has many ramifications.

The petitioners argued that the real reason for the deferrals is political and has nothing to do with security considerations.

"The decision as to whether to grant the deferrals is not in the hands of the defense minister," said Har-Zahav. "It is much bigger than the defense minister."

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Health funds slammed for failure to publicize members' rights

By JUDY SIEGEL

The four public health funds were severely criticized yesterday by patients and government officials for failing to publicize members' rights to treatment in hospital outpatient clinics and for severely rationing referrals to doctors outside the funds.

The Knesset Public Complaints Committee, headed by MK Rafi Elul, heard hair-raising stories from transplant patients and people suffering from multiple sclerosis and other chronic diseases who

said they couldn't get tests, treatments and consultations outside health fund clinics.

Health Minister director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash said that as long as the health funds refuse to inform members of their treatment options, "the patients' complaints are justified."

Ministry ombudsman Dr. Karni Rubin-Jabotinsky said the health funds' failure to advertise patients' rights information is "tendentious. This must stop. The health funds must put all their cards on the table," she said.

Dr. Elisha Bar-Tov, chairman of the government hospital doctors' association, said that during the past year there has been a drastic reduction in the number of referrals by health funds to hospital outpatient clinics.

Instead, members are seen by health fund doctors, some of whom may lack the experience required to deal with serious and rare conditions and the equipment to diagnose and treat them.

Elul described the plight of women who have undergone fertility treatments for years with a spe-

cific hospital gynecologist, and then are told suddenly by their insurer that they must see a health fund doctor and start all over again.

In addition, Elul charged, tens of thousands of patients aren't getting treatment on time of the quality and frequency required, and this can cause irreversible damage to their health.

This is occurring despite the wording of the National Health Insurance Law that entitles residents to choose among service providers himself and requires the

health funds to publicize a list of external providers of services with which it has arrangements.

Patients don't go to hospital outpatient clinics unless their condition is serious, according to the results of an unpublished arrangement by Maccabi with the Hadassah-University Hospitals.

The committee gave Clalit, Maccabi, Meuhedet and Leumit a month to publicize - in pamphlets and newspaper advertisements - the rights of patients and lists of hospitals with which they work.

Medical Association sues state over jobs for doctors

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Israel Medical Association yesterday filed suit against the state for failing to implement an agreement it signed to increase the number of doctors' job slots in hospital internal medicine departments.

The suit was filed in the Tel Aviv District Labor Court after Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said he could not help the IMA in getting the agreement carried out.

For over a year, the IMA has been demanding that the government observe the accord, which was signed in March 1997.

The Treasury and Health Ministry committed themselves to supply the budget for 360 additional doctors' job slots and 90 duty posts in hospitals, to relieve overwork and overcrowding in the internal medicine departments.

Especially during the winter months, patient occupancy in these departments reaches 120% to 150%; adding doctors would allow expansion of beds and reduce workloads.

"In its cynical behavior, the government has set new standards of behavior, worse than ever, in its relations with a professional sector. The long-term implications of failing to observe a written agreement are a serious crisis of faith with the doctors, other professional groups and even the general public," said Dr. Yoram Blachar, the chairman of the IMA.

After the agreement was signed, Blachar met with the director-general of the Health Ministry, and it was decided to carry out the accord in three stages. A third of the job slots would be added by May 1, 1997; another third by October 1, 1997, and the rest between May 1 and September 1, 1998.

But none of this has been carried out. Health Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash said that the ministry "supports" the IMA suit, and that the Treasury had not allocated the money. No comment was available from the Treasury.



The Pollard lobby

Esther Pollard, wife of the convicted spy Jonathan Pollard, meets yesterday with MK Opher Pines-Paz during a visit to the Knesset. Paz says the government is withholding efforts to press the US for Pollard's release until an agreement is reached on the second redeployment. The government denies this.

(Text by Liat Collins, photo by Bryan McBury)

Israel denounces Swiss call for Jewish boycott

ZURICH (Reuters) - Israel's envoy to Switzerland yesterday denounced as "evil voices" a call by a small right-wing Swiss party for Swiss to boycott US and Jewish businesses over a row about Holocaust victims' assets in Swiss banks.

Ambassador Yitzhak Mayer said the boycott urged by the opposition Swiss Democrats, who have three of 200 seats in the lower house of parliament, echoed the 1930s Nazi campaigns against Jews in Germany that preceded the Holocaust.

"This is untenable.... This should never happen in a democratic, ethical country," Mayer said in remarks broadcast by Swiss national radio DRS.

"The State of Israel, which speaks in the name of Jews, cannot keep silent even though it knows very well that the great majority of Swiss will not tolerate these evil voices," he said.

"The call 'Don't buy from Jews'

and the broken windows of Jewish businesses were only the prologue to the tragedy that bears the name Holocaust and Shoah," Mayer added in a separate statement released by the embassy.

Swiss President Flavio Cotti also has condemned the call.

The Swiss Democrats have urged consumers to boycott US and Jewish companies in protest at threats by US cities and states to slap sanctions on Swiss banks over their handling of dormant accounts left by victims of the Holocaust.

The small party has in the past pushed to keep neutral Switzerland out of the NATO cooperation pact Partnership for Peace and to force Zurich to give preference in all services to Swiss nationals over immigrants.

The Swiss Democrats said they were assembling a list of US and Jewish-owned American companies active in Switzerland and would publish the names soon.

Bill presented to prevent lifeguards from striking

By LIAT COLLINS

Following the spate of recent drowning incidents, MK Rafi Elul (Labor) presented a bill yesterday to prevent coastal lifeguards from striking.

The bill is an amendment to a law on arbitration which prevents certain public sectors, such

as the military, from striking as a result of a work dispute or salary demands.

Some of the drownings which occurred recently were the result of the lifeguard strike for better pay and conditions, Elul said.

He also said a bill setting out the lifeguards' work conditions should be created.

Elul said this should establish the pay and

also increase the work hours of coastal lifeguards to reduce cases of drowning by people who go to the beach in daylight hours but after the lifeguards have gone home.

"The beaches have been abandoned, and the phenomenon of loss of life on the beaches has become insufferable," Elul said. "We should fight this with all our means."

Histadrut issues ultimatum to Haifa over lifeguard strike

By DAVID RUDGE

The Histadrut's Haifa branch yesterday issued an ultimatum to the municipality to resolve the lifeguards dispute by Thursday midnight or face a general strike that would shut down all municipal services.

Beaches in Haifa and nearby Kiryat Haim have been left unguarded since Friday, when near-

ly 60 lifeguards went on strike in protest the breakdown of pay negotiations with the Haifa Municipality.

The ultimatum was issued by Histadrut Haifa branch chairman Baruch Zaltz during a meeting in the afternoon with representatives of the lifeguards and the municipality workers committee.

No parking tickets were issued in Haifa yesterday, because of a one-day strike by municipality wardens

in solidarity with the lifeguards. The engineers department will be shut down today.

The municipality has accused the lifeguards of breaking a deal that had been reached by making additional last-minute demands.

The Histadrut, which is backing the lifeguards, charged that the municipality had reneged on a signed agreement to increase the pay and overtime of the lifeguards.

Meanwhile, the Acre Municipality has agreed to set aside more than NIS 1 million to try and reopen beaches that have been closed by order of the Health Ministry due to their run-down state and absence of lifeguards.

The decision follows the drowning on Sunday of Misha Mishiyev, 11, who went into the sea off the Argaman beach and was swept away by the waves.

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Lament for nobodies

Sometimes this profession seems too depressing for the words it produces, saying everything, achieving nothing.

Forest fires ravaging Florida

have been making international headlines for a week. There was one related casualty, an elderly man who suffered a heart attack.

Just 1,000 km. southwest of New Delhi, nature driven wild by the global warming phenomenon has also been active. In June, a cyclone swept 10,000 people to their deaths in the sea.

Think about that last sentence. Ten thousand dead. Imagine such a natural disaster in Florida, or Provence, or London and how it would be burned into our horrified consciousness by hysterical television reporters.

So where was the CNN team roaming the body-strewn Kandla mud flats, bringing us hushed and horrified reports of lives cruelly snuffed out on such a numbing scale? Too busy faking ludicrous stories about the CIA? If an earthquake sent a tidal wave sweeping across Tel Aviv to kill 10,000 of us, would it merit a brief on page 10 of the Times of India?

Who cares

This is not an original column on the subject — the full credit goes to the Washington Post's Kevin Sullivan who yesterday, three weeks after the tragedy, filed a moving dispatch from Kandla ("43 degrees centigrade and the sky hissed with hot little pellets of rain...").

The people who died were about the most "nobody" a human being can be at the end of the 20th century, each life less valuable than an Indian cow. They lived by scratching salt from the bleak cracked hinterland, living in shanty boxes that make the word "shack" sound like "villa."

The cyclone, driving a wall of water before it, swept the lot away like baby crabs caught in a tidal swell. "No one bothered about these people when they lived. Now who cares once they're dead?" a development official told Sullivan.

If the dead are less valuable than cows, the living are less valuable than politics. The Indian government rejected a gift of \$300,000 from Japan to aid the survivors of the Kandla cyclone because Japan criticized India's nuclear tests last May.

Let us visualize Kandla for a moment: penniless, homeless, bereaved and shocked survivors, lashed by the hot rain in a denuded moonscape. How could anyone have the temerity to criticize India for spending billions of dollars on a weapon that could end millions of such worthless lives

in the sub-continent. Oh, the nerve of it!

Cow is king

There used to be an apocryphal press myth in 1950s

Fleet Street of a newspaper editor who sent a memo to his subs indicating the relative weight of news stories. It read: "One dead Englishman equals 10 dead Frenchmen equals 1,000 dead Indians."

Unfortunately news of poor Indians dying in their hundreds or thousands is not often a big news

there either. People who really care about the poor — Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa — are so rare in this ancient land of nearly a billion people that they become international legends.

How can we give these poor people a name and a face and a soul so that the world will rise up when they are abused, and put its hand in its fat pocket when they are dying in their tens of thousands?

A trip to India is the most elating, and depressing, experience of a lifetime. The scale of the mass poverty is astounding, the individual ebullience and courtesy of even the poorest is a revelation. From that is born the shameful realization that "every life is a miracle" is not a Readers' Digest cliché. In a New Delhi slum it is a hymn to humanity, even if cow is king.

I notice that my diary of that trip begins with observations of the mass, and slowly moves on to a catalog of the individual. "The city sprawled from rich to poor, to nameless streets for nameless masses ... it is a reality of humans reduced to ants — milling, seething, bumping, flowing in torrents without cease through brown-black alleys."

We have names

My salutary humiliation came in New Delhi's biggest slum. As I wandered in, ready to observe more ants, dozens of children raced out, hands outstretched, and I instinctively reached in my pocket for coins. "No, no!" said Dadi the taxi driver. "They just want to shake your hand and welcome you." And they did, one by one, jumping and giggling and singing out their names: Uma and Indira and Ram and Amrit.

Right now, in some secret laboratory, an Indian scientist is fusing over the correct neutron enhancement for a multibillion-dollar warhead, and on Kandla strand, poor remnants still starve in the hot rain. There is nothing you nor I can do about it, or for the 10,000 dead who had names no one knew.

But, if just for a passing moment, someone remembers, maybe they are not forgotten, surely their lives had meaning.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Sorting out the tendrils of unrest

South Europe could unravel if Albanians in various countries try to form an 'Ethnic Albania'

By ROY GUTMAN

TETOVO, Macedonia — Barely five miles north, just over the 8,000-foot Sar mountains in Serbia's Kosovo province, 50,000 Serbian troops are pitted against tens of thousands of ill-armed Albanian separatists.

But the biggest threat to Europe's peace lies in this north-west Macedonian city.

"You cannot localize a popular insurrection," Iljaz Halimi, a leading ethnic Albanian politician, said, warning of a possible regional war that would touch five surrounding countries.

The Macedonian government calls Halimi's Democratic Party of Albanians extremist, but that vision of greater Albania, carved out of ethnic Albanian enclaves throughout the Balkans, is one of the fears pushing the US for a diplomatic solution to the current fighting in Kosovo.

From Skopje, the Macedonian capital, to Tetovo and on to Tirana, Albania, politicians and experts say they worry about the risks of military spillover, have few good ideas on how to stop it and have sinking hopes for any diplomatic solution.

After a recent meeting with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, US special envoy Richard Holbrooke said a change of Kosovo's status within Yugoslavia was needed. Special envoy Robert Gelbard said in London that the US strongly favors a Kosovo that is either one of three Yugoslav republics, with Serbia and Montenegro, or a region of Serbia with greatly enhanced autonomy.

TETOVO, a city of 172,000, three-quarters ethnic Albanian, is a likely starting point for a greater conflict. Tensions here have boiled over more than once into violence. After trials that sparked cries of legal abuse, the mayor and city council president were just sent to jail for two years for raising the Albanian flag.

The underground Albanian-language university has just graduated its first class, but Albanians are effectively barred from Macedonian-dominated police, judiciary and government administration.

If the war continues and expands, Albanians in Macedonia and Montenegro "will try to help" their "brothers" in Kosovo, Halimi said. "If Albanians here take up weapons, we will demand our rights" in Macedonia, a scenario that experts agree could lead to the unraveling of southeast Europe.

While some have used the phrase Greater Albania, in Tetovo, most shun it because it implies dominating other nations.

Locals prefer "Ethnic Albania," which would include areas in five countries where Albanians comprise at least half of the population or have a historic claim. The claim includes Skopje, the capital of Macedonia.

The current wave of Albanian nationalism has been fueled by the fighting in Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs by a 9-1 ratio. Albanians say they hope to end more than a century of second-class status and find a place



A Serb policeman holds an observation point last week after clashes with armed Kosovo Albanians. The fighting in Kosovo, where 50,000 Serbian troops are pitted against tens of thousands of ill-armed Albanian separatists, has fueled the current wave of Albanian nationalism. (AP)

on the international stage.

Creating an Ethnic Albania, local activist Abdurahim Sulejmani argued, would lead to an "equilibrium of nations."

The Albanians, with 6 million persons, would then be in rough balance with Serbs, Greeks and Bulgarians, each with 7 million persons.

ACROSS THE Sar mountains and about 80 miles to the west in Tirana, capital of chaotic Albania, Mehmet Elezi, director of the Institute of International and Strategic Studies, agrees that "without a balance, we would never have stable Balkan states."

Countries view the prospect of losing territory in a dramatically different light.

In addition to Kosovo, and

Albania itself, ethnic Albanians are spread among western Macedonia, Montenegro and what is now called "East Kosovo," an Albanian-populated area of far southern Serbia.

Some scholars extend the area to include Chameria in Greece, and northern Epirus, once populated by Albanians who were moved en masse to Turkey in a population exchange after World War I.

There are also historic claims to much of the territory including the capital and the southern coastline of ethnically Serb-led Montenegro, but few are pressing that because the new reformist government has promised complete equality to Albanians.

For Macedonia, independence for Kosovo would lead, in the

words of its defense minister, to catastrophe. Every neighbor will want a piece, and there could be a replay of the Balkan wars of 1912-13, which led to World War I.

"In our opinion, there is going to be a catastrophe if any borders in the Balkans are changed," Defense Minister Lazar Kitanovski said.

"We believe that the creation of a big ethnic [Albanian] nation is a threat for all Europe," said Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov, a respected elder statesman in the region.

"I do understand how they feel, in principle. We, too, are a divided nation. If the numbers had been the same, Macedonians would be experiencing the same kind of turmoil," he said.

But Gligorov warns that the

Albanians are ignoring the lessons of the 3-year-old Bosnia conflict. "It is not the path into Europe but into Balkan clashes," he said.

THE PROSPECT of independent Kosovo and "Ethnic Albania," in fact, alarms every government in the region, among them three predominantly Moslem countries.

Albania's government, led by Fatos Nano, who has close ties to Greece and whose power base is in the south of the country, is openly opposed and has asked NATO to send troops to seal the border with Kosovo.

Moslem leaders in Bosnia, and Turkey's secular Islamic government, fear that the example of changing borders by force and creating new ethnically based states will inspire Bosnian Serbs and Turkish Kurds, respectively, to follow suit.

Still, there is an air of hyperbole, where politicians deliberately overstate their cases in the hope of gaining an advantage. There are even cracks within the Albanian nationalist camp.

While Kosovo Albanians have direct family ties with Macedonian Albanians and a shared political experience, they have little in common with Albanians in Albania, apart from language, literature and religion.

A half century of brutal Stalinist dictatorship "robbed them of their souls," Sulejmani said.

"People there have lost their sensibility. They have no idea what it means to live and work in a modern state."

As for unity with Albania, "we'll leave that to our children" to accomplish.

Meanwhile, the grievances multiply here in western Macedonia.

Halimi, deputy leader of the Democratic Party of Albanians, said his party can accept the Macedonian state, but with conditions. It wants to be named in the Macedonian constitution as one of the principal nationalities, a status it gained in the 1974 federal constitution but lost in 1991.

"We want a veto in this state," he said.

Macedonian foreign minister Blagoj Handziski rejects what he calls "a constitutive status in a federal republic."

A second demand is to be educated in the Albanian language, up to and including the university level. A third demand is the right to use national symbols — something the Macedonian parliament has authorized on certain festival days.

Albanians also insist that their language be an official language in areas where Albanians are in the majority. Finally, they want the police and other state institutions to hire Albanians in proportion to the population.

"Right now, 93 percent of the police in Tetovo are Macedonian, and only 6% are Albanian," Halimi said.

"We can recognize Macedonia within these borders but only when the five demands are accepted," Halimi said.

If Albanians, who officially constitute 22% of the population, want to amend the constitution, stated Handziski, they will have to "work through the system." (Newsday)

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מכון מן האל

N. Ireland's peace in jeopardy

BELFAST (Reuters) - Northern Ireland's peace process was in jeopardy yesterday after a second night of violence and no sign of an end to a tense standoff between Protestant Orangemen and security forces.

Britain ordered a further 800 troops to the riot-hit province and political leaders warned time was running out to find a solution to the dispute, which has exposed afresh the deep-rooted hatred and suspicion that has divided Catholics and Protestants for centuries.

"We all know that this situation, if it develops badly, has the potential to damage the entire political process in Northern Ireland. We hope that this will not happen," said David Trimble, first minister in the power-sharing assembly that was installed a week ago to implement a historic peace accord struck in April.

"There are considerable dangers here... there is not an unlimited amount of time and I do think it necessary for all sections of the community here to rally round," Trimble, leader of the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party, told a news conference.

Trimble and his Catholic deputy in the assembly Seamus Mallon were speaking after a second night of riots across the province sparked by the insistence of staunchly Protestant Orangemen on marching down a Catholic road in the town of Portadown.

In a further sign of nervousness, the British army said it was sending an extra 800 troops to Northern Ireland in addition to the 17,000 already there.

An army spokesman said the move represented prudent planning, not a major escalation.



Orangemen protest near a roadblock at the start of Garvaghy Road in Portadown yesterday morning.

Trimble and Mallon reported some progress in efforts to find a compromise between the Orangemen and Catholic residents in Portadown.

The Protestants form a majority in the 30,000-strong town as they do in Northern Ireland as a whole, and Catholics see the annual parade through their area as a display of domination.

"There has been progress," said Mallon. "It is slow. It is tedious. We have embarked on a seeming-

ly impossible task. We are not going to give up in trying to get a resolution and we are certainly not going to give up in preserving the [peace] agreement."

Prime Minister Tony Blair agreed to meet representatives of the Orangemen in a bid to shore up the political process but said the decision to ban the parade was not up for discussion.

"Obviously any resolution's got to be consistent with the rule of law," Blair said. "The rule of law

of the United Kingdom must be made paramount, and I think a discussion as to how we resolve this will be very worthwhile."

The meeting is expected to take place in London tomorrow.

The parades provide a perennial flashpoint in Northern Ireland, no more so than this year when Protestants feel under threat from a rapid succession of political changes aimed at ending a bloody conflict that has cost 3,600 lives since 1969.

In Portadown, 45 kilometers southwest of Belfast, hundreds of Orangemen spent a third day behind barriers of concrete and barbed wire, with armored vehicles and helmeted soldiers barring their way into the Catholic Garvaghy Road.

Outside Belfast, about 1,000 members of the Orange Order set up camp outside Hillsborough Castle - the official residence of Britain's Northern Ireland secretary - to press their demands.

Australian Senate in final debate to limit Aboriginal land rights

CANBERRA (AP) - Aborigines and the opposition mounted a last-ditch campaign yesterday to kill a Senate bill to limit Aboriginal land claims, saying it would wipe out their fishing rights in coastal waters.

In a ruling that extended the concept of native title, a Federal Court in Darwin ruled Monday that Aborigines from Croker Island off northern Australia have communal rights over the sea and seabed.

Justice Howard Olney said Aborigines from five clans had limited rights in relation to the sea and seabed in an area of about 2,600 square kilometers north of the Coburg Peninsula. But the judge said the rights are

not exclusive and that anglers and commercial fishermen can use the waters.

The Croker Island claim is considered a test case for at least 120 claims to sea area over thousands of square kilometers off Australia's coast, including prime fishing and resort areas.

The ruling came during the final stages of Senate debate on a government-sponsored bill to limit Aboriginal claims on some 42 percent of Australia, which is leased by the government to ranchers, farmers and miners.

The bill already has been debated for the longest time in the Senate's 97-year history. A final vote was again delayed when the Senate

adjourned late yesterday with only a few amendments left to be debated. Debate was to resume this morning.

One of the provisions of the government's bill is that Aborigines should have no right to make claims on air space or waters.

Aborigines, and the opposition Labor Party and Democrats, argued yesterday that passage of the bill would negate the gains made by the Croker Island Aborigines in the courts.

But the government says the finding has no implications for its bill.

Special Minister of State Nick Minchin said the bill already provided a mechanism

for the recognition and protection of native title offshore, with compensation payable for its impairment or extinguishment.

The bill is back in the Senate for the third time after Prime Minister John Howard struck a compromise deal with Independent Sen. Brian Harradine.

Howard had threatened months ago to dissolve Parliament and go to a general election to resolve the issue after the Senate twice defeated his bill. But this month, as the third and final attempt to pass the bill loomed, Howard regretted that pledge as his government's popularity sank to 34% in the polls.

In a bid to warm up ties US confers with Nigeria's ruler

ABUJA (Reuters) - A senior American envoy yesterday met Nigerian military ruler General Abdulsalam Abubakar on a mission to promote democracy and mend strained ties with the biggest US trading partner in Africa.

Officials said Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering, heading the biggest official US delegation to Nigeria for years, spent well over an hour behind closed doors at the presidential villa after another private meeting on Monday evening.

The sudden death last month of dictator Sani Abacha has propelled Nigeria towards rapprochement with Western nations who shunned its government over its human rights record and the military's repeated broken promises of a return to democratic rule.

Abubakar has eased the process by freeing scores of political prisoners since succeeding Abacha. But he has yet to free Nigeria's most famous detainee, southern tycoon Moshood Abiola. He was jailed by Abacha in 1994 for claiming to be the rightful president on the basis of a 1993 election, the results of which were scrapped by the army.

One Nigerian analyst described

the timing of the US visit as "walking into a minefield of Nigerian politics".

The delegation had lunch with a cross-section of Nigerian politicians, including many from the opposition and some recently freed detainees.

"We have come to the meeting at the invitation of the Americans," said Solomon Lar, a minister under Abacha who later became prominent in the campaign to press the infantry general not to stand as the sole candidate in presidential elections.

Many Nigerians have welcomed Abubakar's relaxed and consultative style, which contrasts with that of the secretive and uncompromising Abacha.

But Abubakar has been accused of losing momentum by delaying decisions on weighty and divisive national issues.

Nigeria is still as divided as it was when the annulment of Abiola's apparent victory in the presidential election of June 12, 1993, plunged the country into political turmoil.

Uproar greeted UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's announcement after meeting Abiola and Abubakar separately last week that the detained politician had

effectively renounced his claim to the presidency.

Abiola's supporters have mounted a new campaign for his cause, prompting the military to reconsider the timing of his release, which Annan had said was a foregone conclusion.

Pickering arrived on the eve of a meeting of the ruling military council and a broadcast scheduled for today by Abubakar.

Many Nigerians say they expect Abubakar to spell out clearly how he intends to resolve the so-called June 12 issue.

Apart from Abiola's release, Abubakar will also have to say precisely when the military will give up power, to whom and how.

The death of Abacha threw into confusion the transition program he had drawn up, since he was the only presidential candidate nominated by the five registered political parties.

Neither an August 1 presidential poll nor the inauguration of a civilian government on October 1 now seems likely.

State and national assembly polls held under Abacha's transition plan have been widely denounced as stage-managed but it is unclear whether Abubakar will scrap them.

Blair may fire adviser amid sleaze allegations

LONDON (AP) - Struggling to shake off allegations of sleaze in the government, Prime Minister Tony Blair's office said a close adviser would be fired if he furthered the business interests of a controversial lobbyist, *The Financial Times* reported yesterday.

The charges stem from a newspaper report Sunday saying a Blair policy adviser helped the lobbyist woo a potential client.

Allegations of cronyism helped topple the Conservative government in national elections 14 months ago.

"For a government elected on a wave of disgust at Tory sleaze, the parallel is uncomfortable," *The Guardian* said yesterday.

The Observer, which had reporters pose as representatives of US energy companies, reported Sunday that Roger Liddle, a senior member of Blair's Policy Unit and a former lobbyist, told the undercover reporters: "Just tell me what you want, who you want to meet, and Derek (Draper) and I will make the call for you."

The newspaper said lobbyist and former Labor Party official Derek Draper, who boasted he could arrange access to government offi-

cials and documents, was among three former aides to government ministers who are now selling their contacts.

Liddle said he was just being friendly and never offered to arrange meetings on behalf of Draper's company.

Draper, who had worked for GPC Market Access, part of GPC Canada of Toronto, was suspended by the lobbying company Monday and fired from his job as a newspaper columnist. He made no comment.

The *Express* newspaper dismissed Draper because he reportedly said his columns were reviewed by a government minister before publication.

The Observer said the lobbyists claimed to be able to get privileged access to government ministers and policies, including advance information about market-sensitive speeches by Treasury officials.

Britain prides itself on lack of corruption, and a commentary by US correspondent Gavin Esler that appeared yesterday in *The Independent* compared the latest scandal to American-style lobbying.

WORLD

in brief

India tests anti-tank missile

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India tested a heat-seeking anti-tank missile at an eastern range yesterday, United News of India reported. Quoting unnamed government sources, it said two of the missiles dubbed, Nag, or "cobra," were successfully fired at the Chandipur-on-Sea test range near Balasore, about 1,200 kilometers east of New Delhi. The Nag was first tested last year. India is also developing medium-range ballistic missiles that could be fitted with nuclear warheads.

Russia launches German satellite

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia launched a German scientific satellite from a submerged nuclear submarine yesterday, a spokesman for the Russian Navy said. "The launch of the SS-N-23 rocket was made from a Delfin-type submarine at 7:15 a.m. Moscow time in the Barents Sea," the spokesman said. The probe will help scientists study bears and deer in the northern hemisphere. The spokesman said it was the first such launch from a submerged vessel.

25 feared dead in S. Africa bridge collapse

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - As many as 25 people are feared dead after a bridge under construction collapsed in South Africa's eastern Mpumalanga province, a rescue official said yesterday. Emergency official Will Lane said the death toll stood at 13, but a further 12 people were thought to be trapped under the rubble of the bridge, which collapsed while under construction over a dam on Monday afternoon when a final section was being moved into place.

India urges Pakistan to sign no-first nuke use

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee asked Pakistan to accept its offer of a no-first use pact on nuclear weapons, which he said he would pursue when he meets his Pakistani counterpart later this month. "If Pakistan agrees to this pact, it will be one more step in confidence-building measures between the two countries," Vajpayee was quoted as telling Parliament yesterday.

Gaddafi has operation on broken hip

TUNIS (Reuters) - Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has undergone successful surgery for a broken hip suffered when he was exercising, the Libyan official news agency JANA said yesterday. Gaddafi, 56, broke his hip on Monday.

Serb police battle Albanian rebels in Kosovo

By ADAM BROWN

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) - Serb police battling ethnic Albanian insurgents near one of Kosovo's largest cities gained ground against the rebels after overnight battles, Serb sources reported yesterday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said fighting in the region near the southwestern city of Pec appeared to be continuing. But with phone lines cut and the main road into the area sealed off by Serb police, the report could not be verified.

The fighting flared Monday, with the ethnic-Albanian-run Kosovo Information Center reporting one person killed and three wounded by heavy shelling of Lodja village, near Pec.

Serb sources said armed Albanians opened fire on Serb villagers, forcing a Serb counterattack.

The pro-government Serb Media Center reported two policemen killed and six others wounded in the fighting at Lodja.

Closer to Pristina, tensions were high in the 3,000-member community of Pirane, 75 kilometers southwest of the provincial capital, following the deaths of three ethnic Albanian farmers.

Official Serb reports said the three were murdered by their own people for betraying them. But the villagers say the slayings are the handiwork of Serb police.

A tangle of roadblocks have prevented any outside observers from confirming reports of fighting, and information is largely channeled through centers representing either side.

The contradictory allegations highlight the conflicting propaganda in Serbia's Kosovo province. Western diplomats hope to dispel the confusion with the launch this week of a multinational observer mission.

Western observers, Belgrade-based diplomats from the US, Russia, Poland and the European Union will regularly tour villages in Kosovo to try and clarify the situation on the ground.



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Senate stalled on proposed gay diplomat

President Clinton's nominee for US ambassador to Luxembourg has enraged some conservative groups

By MARC LACEY

WASHINGTON — To court the conservative base, key US Senate Republican leaders are digging in their heels on an issue that does not seem ideological at all: Who should be the next US ambassador to a tiny European country most Americans could not find on a map?

With a land mass smaller than the city of Los Angeles and at the center of no burning diplomatic dilemmas, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg would not appear to provide the kinds of issues — such as abortion or flag-burning — that would tweak conservative politicians.

But San Francisco gay activist James C. Hormel — President Bill Clinton's choice as ambassador to the predominantly Roman Catholic country — has so enraged some conservative groups that they have made his defeat a legislative priority.

As a result, the nomination is now stalled in the Senate, even though Republicans increasingly are divided as to how to proceed: conservative Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, (R-NY), facing a rough re-election campaign in a state with a large gay population, recently endorsed Hormel.

Democrats, meanwhile, have

vowed to push aggressively for an up-or-down vote in the weeks ahead, hoping at least to spotlight the dispute.

It is not Hormel's diplomatic experience that is at issue. Luxembourg is traditionally an outpost for big campaign contributors, and Hormel qualifies on that

"I don't think he represents the majority views of our country"

— Sen. Robert Smith, (R-NH)

count because of his \$209,950 in Democratic donations in 1995 and 1996.

And his resume shows he served as an alternate US representative to the 51st UN General Assembly in 1997 — a post that required Senate confirmation — and that he was a member of the 51st UN Human Rights Commission in 1995.

Rather, the furor stems from the fact that Hormel — a lawyer who comes from the well-heeled family that makes Spam — is gay and

has actively used his wealth to fund gay causes. His appointment would make him the first openly gay US ambassador in history, which his conservative detractors denounce as "precedent-setting."

HORMEL'S CRITICS have circulated videotapes in Washington that feature ominous music, bold graphics and men dressed as nuns participating in a raucous gay pride parade on the streets of San Francisco. There on the sidelines, laughing at it all, is Hormel.

Anti-Catholic critics called the nomination, saying Hormel is unfit to be an ambassador.

"I don't think he represents the majority views of our country," said Sen. Robert Smith, (R-NH), one of three senators who has put a "hold" on the nomination.

Also on the videotape is footage from a documentary that Hormel, 65, partly funded, in which gay activists are seen teaching schoolchildren about gays and lesbians.

"It's a pro-active thing with him," said Smith, who joined Sens. Tim Hutchinson, (R-Ark.), and James M. Inhofe, (R-Okla.), in publicly blocking Hormel's nomination.

Numerous people have come to Hormel's aid — from former secretary of state George P. Schultz, who served in GOP administra-

tions, to Hormel's ex-wife, retired psychologist Alice Hormel Tucker, who publicly defended him as a man who tried to "live what was a lie" during their decade-long marriage.

To lend support, she attended Hormel's confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last fall, as did their five children and several of their 13 grandchildren.

In his bid to quell critics, Hormel has seemed at times to distance himself from the activism that has seemed to be such an essential part of his life.

If he becomes ambassador, he has vowed to discontinue most of his public service and philanthropic activities. And he has assured uncomfortable senators that his partner, Timothy Wu, would not live with him in Luxembourg.

Despite these efforts, Hormel's nomination has languished since the Foreign Relations Committee approved it, 16-2, last fall. And now, according to Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), there is not enough time on the Senate schedule to consider the controversial nomination before Congress adjourns this year.

LOTT'S STANCE has buoyed conservatives, who have been angered in recent months by what

they consider a lack of responsiveness by GOP leaders.

This spring, representatives of the Christian Coalition, Family Research Council and more than a dozen other groups met with House Republicans to push an agenda that included a ban on late-term abortions, abolishing the National Endowment for the Arts and phasing out the so-called "marriage penalty" that compels many couples to pay more income taxes than those who file single returns.

On the Senate agenda, the groups added Hormel's nomination.

"We consider it an important issue," said Steven A. Schwalm, a policy analyst for the Family Research Council, who has prepared reports critical of Hormel.

"This is about the basic issue of civilization. We think his agenda represents a clear and present danger to our country."

But Republicans are by no means united. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, (R-Utah), has indicated he believes Hormel is qualified for the post. And D'Amato sent Lott a stern letter saying Hormel's sexual orientation should not be an issue.

Lott has insisted that scheduling will prevent a vote. With only

about 35 working days before it is scheduled to adjourn in October, the Senate simply has more important matters to address, he has said.

But he and other GOP leaders seemed to have undercut this position with a spate of recent anti-gay comments. Lott termed homosex-

"Discrimination is the only reason why the nomination is stalled"

— Winnie Stachelberg, political director for the Human Rights Campaign

uality an affliction similar to kleptomania or alcoholism that must be overcome.

"Discrimination is the only reason why the nomination is stalled," asserted Winnie Stachelberg, political director for the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay-rights group in which Hormel has been active.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), the former San Francisco mayor who has known Hormel for

decades, said she has rounded up the 60 votes needed to defeat any filibuster attempt — if Lott would just bring the matter to the floor.

To encourage Lott to act, Democrats are vowing to attach amendments to unrelated legislation that would urge him to call up the matter, although the amendments would have no binding effect.

The White House also has options, although administration officials said they still hope the Senate will approve the nominee.

If the Senate ultimately fails to act, Clinton could pull off an end run by naming Hormel to the job in an acting status — a course he took last fall for Los Angeles lawyer Bill Lann Lee, whose nomination as assistant attorney-general for civil rights foundered in the Senate.

Hormel has avoided media interviews. But he has fired off letters to senators when, in his opinion, his views have been misrepresented.

When Hutchinson said in a television interview that Hormel has refused to disavow groups that ridicule organized religion, Hormel responded that he finds such conduct "not only offensive but out of step with the important values we hold dear as Americans."

(Los Angeles Times)

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Gary Bertini (right) compares notes with a member of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

(Joel Fishman)

Gary Bertini's 'Resurrection'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

It has been a strange year for Jerusalem conductor Gary Bertini.

The musician who has launched, developed and worked with numerous Israeli orchestras and choirs, such as the Rinat Choir and the Israel Chamber Orchestra, has been working all over the world, but has had no concerts in his native land.

All this changes tomorrow when Bertini leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA in its season finale with Mahler's Second ("Resurrection") Symphony, an opus the maestro has performed more than a few times all over the world. The most recent performance was in Tokyo with the Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra, of which he is music director – the first non-Japanese conductor to be music director of a major Tokyo symphony orchestra.

What's different about Japanese

musicians, he says, is "their inner discipline which derives from the Japanese way of life and behavior."

"They have immense concentration power. Within three weeks of about 20 rehearsals and seven concerts I never had to ask for something twice. When you tell them to do something they do it and that's that."

Bertini has no problem communicating with them. He speaks to them "in English, with hand gestures, mimicry and about 200 words – I have already learned in Japanese."

"But I have long learned that one has to talk as little as possible in rehearsals. The music has to talk from within you."

Musical life in Tokyo, with its nine symphony orchestras, is exciting and rewarding, he says.

"It is not cheap; actually, tickets are very expensive. But the concert halls are full and also with young people, it's very invigorating."

Bertini's musical life focuses on Tokyo, Rome and Paris. He was recently appointed musical director of the Rome Opera where he will open the coming season in December with *Boris Godunov* and where he has already conducted a special concert to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel.

At that concert he performed, among other works, young Israeli composer Gil Shohat's violin concerto.

"I will try and perform contemporary Israeli music in Tokyo as well, where they are very interested in music written in this day and age. Of course there is a limit to how much I can do, but I have always been interested in the works of Israeli composers and this will not change now."

Bertini has also inaugurated a festival of sacred music in Rome, which holds concerts in the various churches of the city.

"This project will continue at least until 2001 and we will have

at least two concerts of liturgical music per year. It's all centered around the year 2000 and the Vatican likes it very much."

"The program will also include sacred Jewish music. After all, I launched the Liturgical Festival in Jerusalem and I know this repertoire inside out. Rome is the perfect place for such a festival as well."

Next year in Rome, Bertini also leads a new production of *Aida*, the first time in many years that Verdi's most popular opera will be presented in the Rome opera house and not in one of the city's huge outdoor arenas.

"I want to do *Aida* as intimately as possible. It's not going to be a traditional version at all."

In Paris he conducts several productions per year at the Paris Opera, most recently Yevgeny Onegin's *Costi fan tutte*, with *Macbeth* following next year.

Sitting in the garden of his Jerusalem home, Bertini reflects on his 45-year career, during

which he has done a lot for the local classical music world, from performing regular concerts and strengthening local music organizations to commissioning and performing numerous works by Israeli composers.

And while he isn't bothered by the fact that he rarely gives concerts in Israel, he would like "to record more Israeli music and to give as much as I can from my experience and knowledge to young musicians these days. I believe I can still do a lot and I hope the framework for this will be found."

Bertini will spend the summer in Jerusalem before embarking on yet another globe-trotting season in the fall. Next season he does not appear in Israel at all.

So tomorrow (8:30, at the Jerusalem International Convention Center) music lovers can hear one of the leading Israeli conductors of all time, conduct an orchestra that he put on the classical music map.

Beatles' precursors the Quarrymen reunite

By ROGER CATLIN

Forty-one years ago the Quarrymen, a group of teenagers from Quarry Bank prep school in Liverpool, played the St. Peter's Church Rose Queen and Garden Fete in the suburb of Woolton.

The show was not memorable for the band's performance. Its place in music history is that it was where the band's unquestioned leader, John Lennon, first met the lad with whom he'd change pop music, Paul McCartney.

Lennon and McCartney became the Beatles, but what of the five other guys on stage at the Woolton fete that afternoon? What became of the rest of the Quarrymen?

More than four decades after that date, the Quarrymen have reunited, recorded a CD and are in the United States on their first tour of any type. "We thought we'd wait long enough to handle the adulation," says Quarryman Rod Davis over the phone from England, reflecting the Liverpool wit the world got to know through his former band leader. "We thought we'd wait until we could slow down so the groupies could catch us."

Screaming throngs will not greet the Quarrymen as they did when the Beatles conquered America in 1964. But the reunion offers a chance of "being one of the lads again," says Davis, who originally played banjo in the group. "It's great fun, which is why we're doing it, I suppose."

Davis acknowledges that the group – whose members' ages range from 56 to 59 – is "a bit long in tooth" to embark on its first rock tour. "Some of us need a good ironing," he deadpans. But a demand has been created by Beatles conventions, where they have appeared as speakers. "We were bowled over by the fact that people knew who we were," Davis says. At Beatles meetings, fans who knew every detail of the Fab Four also knew about the Prefab Five.

"They'd say, 'We heard of you guys, we wondered if you were still alive. We never expected to see you, let alone see all five of you together,'" he recalled.

It was a surprise for members, too, who didn't see one another again until they were each invited to a 40th anniversary party for the old Cavern Club in Liverpool, where jazz fans booed an early Quarrymen gig in 1957.

There was Pete Shotton, a washboard player for the Quarrymen who stayed Lennon's friend for life. Shotton was later tapped by Lennon to run the Apple boutique in London 30 years ago and eventually ran a string of restaurants. For the Quarrymen, he'll alternate between washboard and a distinctly British version of the washboard bass called the tea-chest bass.

There was Colin Hinton, who lasted long enough with the Quarrymen to cut a 1958 single with Lennon and McCartney and their new guitarist George Harrison. "That'll Be the Day," backed by a McCartney/Harrison original, "In Spite of All the Danger" got its first release in 1995, as part of the best-selling *Beatles Anthology 1*. Quite an accomplishment for an upstart who hadn't touched the drums in 40 years.

On guitar is Eric Griffiths, who was replaced by Harrison and ended up running a chain of dry-cleaning stores. Len Garry, who played tea-chest bass, had to quit the Quarrymen for health reasons. After a career as a special-needs teacher, he's switched to Lennon's role: guitar and lead vocals.

Davis, for his part, left before McCartney formally joined the band in the fall of 1957. A fan of skiffle, an offshoot of traditional jazz, he was unhappy with Lennon's insistence on playing rock 'n' roll. Davis kept a hand in playing American bluegrass music but made his living operating a church tour business for a decade, following that with lectures on tourism. So he was happy to agree to play the first big gig for the reunited Quarrymen – a benefit for the crumbling church hall they played the day Lennon met McCartney – on the 40th anniversary of the event. A couple of subsequent appearances came at international Beatles conventions.

New York promoter Thom Wolke caught one of their convention shows and says "I was amazed no one had brought them to the United States, or thought of reuniting them before in England." He got in touch with them right away. Wolke described the Quarrymen's show as a combination of the charming, roots rock 'n' roll the Crickets played on their tour last year with Nanci Griffith, with the amusing historical aspects of the Kinks' Ray Davies solo storytelling tour.

The Quarrymen won't do any Beatles songs, per se. "There are so many brilliant Beatles sound-alike and look-alike groups, there's no point in competing with them," Davis says.

"Beatles fans seem to want to know: What did you sound like then?" The set list includes such nuggets as "Be-Bop-A-Lula," "Blue Suede Shoes" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On."

"None of us are brilliant musicians," Davis warns. "But people are interested in us as walking antiques you know. This is as near as you can get to hearing the Lennon lineup in 1957."

"We don't pretend to be fantastic," he says. "We hope to be an interesting act. We're basically five old guys who know someone who became someone famous." (The Hartford Courant)

Coming up trumpets

By HELEN KAYE

Trumpeter Marlon Jordan, 28, has an impeccable musical pedigree. His father is Edward "Kidd" Jordan, professor of classical and jazz music at Southern University in New Orleans, where Jordan was born, raised and still lives. His mother, Edwidge, is a classical pianist, his brother Kent, a flautist, and his sister Rachel plays the violin.

Before "I really knew how to play," he has said, "my father would take me to the bandstand and introduce me to all the musicians. They'd call me up, saying 'Come on, that's Kidd's son. Let him play.'"

And he does, playing classical and jazz trumpet with equal aplomb and mastery, but it's as a jazz trumpeter he'll be playing Saturday night at Mitze Harel near Mevasseret Zion. He's playing with a local sextet, including Shai Zalman on drums, Ilan Katchka on percussion and Ofer Schneider on bass.

He started studying music in third grade, settling on the trumpet "because I liked the way it sounded, and it looked easy. It didn't have too many keys on it like the saxophone had."

He lived, he's said, to regret that early naivete, but he persisted with his chosen instrument and was appointed featured soloist with the New Orleans Symphony when he was only in ninth grade. But jazz was what he wanted most, and he formed a band as soon as he completed high school.

His own quintet wowed critics in the early nineties when it debuted at the Village Vanguard. Similarly his 1990 debut album *For You Only* was voted one of the best debut albums of the year by *The Washington Post*. Since then he has released four more albums, including *Undaunted* in 1993, which he also produced.

In the last few years, Jordan has concentrated on interpreting and developing new arrangements for the music of John Coltrane, and on his own compositions.

Madonna poised on a Hot Tin Roof

Pop superstar Madonna is poised to make her London stage debut next summer in a revival of the Tennessee Williams play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Daily Variety* reported in its Tuesday edition.

Theater producer Bill Kenwright confirmed on Monday that negotiations were well advanced for the revival, which has been rumored in the West End for months, the entertainment trade paper reported from London.

The director is to be Peter Hall, who staged the 1958 London premiere of the play, *Variety* said. "I have met Madonna. Peter Hall has met Madonna. The three of us have a desire that she should play Maggie the cat in London next year," Kenwright was quoted as saying.

The producer, who won a 1997 Tony Award for the Broadway revival of *A Doll's House*, described Madonna as "a feet-on-the-ground working actress who knew her stuff and talked to me in a language I totally related to. She's a clever girl," he added.

Kenwright told *Variety* he expected Madonna to sign a contract for a 20-week run, with rehearsals to begin once she finished shooting a film version of the stage musical *Chicago*. The last stage production Madonna appeared in was a 1988 Broadway production of David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plough*. She made her last feature film appearance in the title role of the 1996 musical *Evita*.

Her other movie credits include *Dangerous Game*, *Body of Evidence*, *A League of Their Own*, *Dick Tracy* and *Desperately Seeking Susan*. In taking the "Cat" role, Madonna would follow such actresses as Barbara Bel Geddes and Kathleen Turner, both of whom



Madonna is set to follow in Liz Taylor's footsteps.

played Maggie on Broadway, and Kim Stanley and Lindsay Duncan, who starred in separate

London versions. Elizabeth Taylor took the part in a 1958 film. (Reuters)

Bargains to be found in opera pirates' treasures

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

If you like to collect opera discs you know that it is not a cheap hobby. Even the various new formats, like two discs for the price of one, and the various budget labels are still quite expensive.

But opera buffs willing to comb the music stores for bargains will usually find them. And these bargains can be the best opera deals around, if you are willing to accept two major shortcomings.

Firstly there is no libretto and detailed booklet; these are the prerogative of the full-price opera discs. And secondly, these usually pirated recordings of live concerts, often leave a lot to be desired sound-wise.

That said, these opera pirates don't just record any performance around. They know exactly what to record and where to record it. So the compensation for the recording sound is the quality of singing, which is often quite amazing.

A new series of opera albums by a company called Opera d'Oro has recently reached Tower Records; they are being sold for the very cheap price of NIS 25 per disc, compared to the average opera album price of NIS 50.

And there are some great treasures among these recordings. For example, there is the 1964 recording from Moscow of Verdi's *Il trovatore* (OPD-1129) with a stellar cast.

It was a performance by the visiting La Scala orchestra and chorus led by Gianandrea Gavazzeni and one can enjoy here the fiery Manrico of Carlo Bergonzi, the sensuous Leonora of Gabriella Tucci, the sultry Azucena of Giulietta Simonato and the authoritative vindictive Luna of

Piero Cappuccilli.

Three is also, for example, the more familiar Covent Garden recording of *Tosca* (OPD-1142) from 1964 with Callas and Gobbi.

The list does not end here. This new series is quite splendid and a find no opera buff can refuse. There are many other similar

series around. Callas albums are there in droves and other opera stars can be heard in their prime, via recordings that were never authorized but are still as exciting, if not more so.

Bottom line: Hunting for opera bargains can result in some exhilarating finds.

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Judicial review

A serious examination of what Supreme Court President Aharon Barak terms Israel's "constitutional revolution" is necessary, even overdue. The Supreme Court, like any branch of government, is not above criticism. But the critics, now including Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, have tended to approach this delicate subject with the subtlety of bulldozer, triggering a backlash that once again stifles legitimate debate.

At a colloquium marking the court's 50th anniversary, Tichon warned, "If the court views itself as being in a position to judge Knesset decisions, the Knesset will not be able to fulfill its decisions properly." The Knesset Speaker argued that such rulings "cross a red line" and that the Knesset would respond by passing "laws which circumvent High Court rulings." Tichon went on to emphasize that "it would be a very sad day if the Knesset resorts to such drastic measures and this undesirable process should be avoided at all cost." Tichon's statement seemed to echo a recent call by Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi for legislation to limit the court's powers. Bibi's statement was met with withering criticism, largely because he attacked the entire justice system, claiming, "The time has come to say that the emperor is naked. There is no law, there is no justice."

Even though Tichon was more restrained, the threat of combating judicial activism with legislation ironically opens the Knesset to the very charge it is leveling against the court - applying a legal solution to what should be achieved through public persuasion. Barak is, in fact, leading a revolution in the nation's democratic system no less significant than the new direct election law. This revolution is built upon three pillars: standing, justiciability, and basic laws. Under Barak, who joined the Supreme Court in 1978 and became its president in 1995, the definition of standing - that is, who may bring an issue before the court - has been widened dramatically. A suing party once had to show that legal action was required to redress some personal damage; now any matter that may be deemed in the public interest can be brought before the court.

Perhaps even more significantly, justiciability - the court's interpretation of whether an issue is within the court's proper purview - has also

expanded dramatically. In the landmark *Ressler* decision of 1986, for example, the court decided to consider a complaint that the defense minister had abused his authority by granting a broad draft exemption for yeshiva students. Previous petitions on the same issue had been dismissed in 1970 and 1981, stating in the second instance that it would not attempt to decide a "public and political controversy on a sensitive and stormy subject, on which public opinion is sharply divided." In *Ressler*, Barak devoted 25 pages of his decision to the issue of justiciability, arguing in essence that refusing to consider a matter because of its political sensitivity constitutes "political thinking" that would be inappropriate for a court.

The change was gradual, but in the end, according to McGill University law professor Irwin Cotler, Israeli interpretation of standing is "the broadest of any parliamentary democracy in the world," and its stance on justiciability, "the broadest of any democracy." Though Barak clearly was the driving force behind extending the reach of the court, it was the Knesset that most directly increased the court's power. The 1992 passage of the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty and Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation greatly expanded the ability of the court to challenge or overturn legislation. Though Israel has no constitution, the expansion of the body of basic laws gave Barak precisely the authority that Tichon is now criticizing.

As a result of these evolutionary but sweeping changes, the court has tread on increasingly political territory. In recent years, the court has forced a minister and deputy minister to resign, blocked a director-general's appointment, scrapped a 50-year-old ban on the import of non-kosher meat, prevented the dismissal of the Civil Service Commissioner, and rejected the Israel Prize Committee's choice of a prize recipient.

In this context, it is certainly proper to question whether the court has thrown its net too widely. But anyone who enters this debate should acknowledge that the court represents a precious bastion of individual rights, and that the court's greater boldness in the political realm has made a dent in public corruption. If the court has gone too far, the way to restrain it is not through legislation or bumper-sticker style attacks, but through reasoned public debate.

Listen and observe

RUTHIE BLUM

Standing at a cocktail party, armed with the best white wine the host could afford and the best posture high heels would allow, I made a conscious decision not to enter any discussion which might turn into an argument by virtue of my participation in it.

This decision was based, I'm sorry to say, more on self-preser-

would be in hunky-dory shape, but for the short-sightedness of right-wing leaders, Israel's being first and foremost among them.

"If we didn't spend so much money on draft-dodging yeshiva boys and settlers," said the host, while straightening the kilt rug covering a small portion of the floral-patterned floor tiles freshly scrubbed by the Arab maid in

Sweat, it seems, is thicker than politics. Especially in high heels

vation (and the awful heat wave) than on self-restraint. My positions, after all, were bound, if not to be outlandish, certainly to be way outnumbered. And the large fan hanging from the four-meter Arab ceiling was the closest I had come to air-conditioning all day.

Sweat, it seems, is thicker than politics. Especially in high heels. Like all forms of self-control, maintaining a buttoned lip has many advantages. The greatest of these is the opportunity to listen and to observe - two activities I tend to neglect when busy trying to prove a point.

The rape and pillage of the planet was the first item on the unspoken agenda. Munching on fashionable finger-food, the roomful of conversationalists agreed that it was a tough contest between the rain forests and ozone layer where Man's indifference to and criminal negligence of nature was concerned.

"If we didn't spend so much money on draft-dodging yeshiva boys and settlers," said one, Copper-toned lovely, "we could invest in saving the environment." Everyone nodded in agreement, about Man's evil and, of course, the government's.

The next topic on the list was the sorry state of the world, which

preparation for the party, "we could be getting on with the business of creating a New World Order."

Everyone nodded in agreement, about right-wing leaders in general and, of course, about ours in particular.

The third issue on the (delicately-filled) table was the prevention of the New Middle East by Jewish Oslo abolitionists. "If we didn't spend so much money on draft-dodging yeshiva boys and settlers," said one of the guests, a resident of the adjoining renovated Arab house, "we could be living in harmony with a Palestinian neighbor-state as we speak."

Everyone nodded in agreement, about Jewish Oslo abolitionists and, of course, about peaceful Palestinian statehood.

The fourth subject raised - the appalling condition of the country - came just in time for coffee and cake, the former of the same national origin as the marijuana being smoked in the yard (tended to regularly by the Arab gardener), the latter purchased at the choicest bakery in the neighborhood.

"If we didn't spend so much money on draft-dodging yeshiva boys and settlers," said another guest, leaving early to catch a flight to EuroDisney and the

Dry Bones



World Cup for a family holiday, "we could be curing such ills of our sick society as poverty."

Everyone nodded in agreement, about the appalling condition of the country and, of course, about the perils of poverty.

The soiree was now coming to a close. As often happens at such affairs, the most lively conversations took place at the door on the way out. As also often happens, the lawyer in the dispersing crowd got the most attention.

The sustained "environmentalist" had a question about her battles with her soon-to-be-ex-husband over their joint property and kids. The host had a question

about his battles with the municipality over his addition of a garage to his house.

Someone else had a question about his battles with a neighbor over the latter's choice of window bars, which destroy the character of the building, thereby lowering the value of the property. And the host's wife wanted to know how she could fire the Arab maid without having to fork out five years' worth of severance pay.

In this case, listening to and observing others was a rarity brought on by battle-fatigue and heat prostration. Too bad my subjects didn't spend more time listening to and observing themselves.

The lesson of Evian

DAVID KIMCHE

had begun immediately after the Anschluss.

The stage was set by Great Britain, which agreed to participate in the conference only on condition that Palestine would not be on the agenda as a possible haven for refugees. At the conference itself, the British delegate declared that there was no place in the entire British Empire which could absorb large numbers of refugees.

By its insensitivity to the Jews' plight, the conference provides a terrible footnote to the history of the genocide of European Jewry

Other nations followed the British lead. France declared that "its capacity to absorb new immigrants had already been exceeded," while the United States, which had initiated the conference, announced that it was only willing to accept the number of German and Austrian refugees stipulated in its quota for immigrants: 27,370. Despite the special circumstances, they refused to exceed the quota.

AT EVIAN, the world slammed its door shut and sealed the fate of hundreds of thousands of Jews

who could have escaped the "Final Solution" if the enlightened countries of the world had indeed been enlightened.

When, for example, the Canadian delegate announced that his country was only interested in accepting farmers, he knew full well that he was barring Jews from seeking refuge in his country. When the Dutch representative declared that Holland was prepared

than the one they received from Evian. Hitler understood that message only too well. "In Evian," he declared, "the myth of international Jewish strength and influence was shattered."

There was one ray of light at Evian. One country stood out from the rest and declared that it had "large areas of fertile land" which it was ready to put at the disposal of refugees from the Nazi terror. One country announced that it was prepared to take in "immediately 50,000 - 100,000 involuntary emigrants and provide facilities for their settlement."

That country was the Dominican Republic. As a show of gratitude, the World Jewish Congress invited the Dominican Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Eduardo Latorre, to Israel this week.

Tonight, the minister will address the Israel Council for Foreign Relations on "60 Years since the Evian Conference." It is indeed, appropriate that this reminder of such an important and infamous - event for the Jewish people should be made by the foreign minister of the one country that stood tall when the rest of the world cringed.

We owe a debt to the Dominican Republic and it is good to note that the debt has not been forgotten. Nor should we ever forget the lesson of Evian and what it must imply regarding the centrality of Israel for the Jewish people everywhere.

Beduin inequality

DAVID NEWMAN

the complexities of planning legislation and the means through which such important services as education and welfare can be provided in an efficient manner.

Given the fact that five of the seven Beduin townships still have

participants and the Interior Ministry's regional head.

The participants argued that the government practiced discrimination in its policy toward the Beduin, giving them a lower level of services than their Jewish neighbors receive.

Modernization is not only about physical amenities, such as houses, electricity and sewage, but equally - if not more so - about being equal citizens of a democracy

appointed, rather than elected, officials, this workshop proved to be an important part of local empowerment.

This was emphasized the previous day, when the High Court ruled that the municipal appointee in the Beduin township of Aroer, should be replaced by someone more appropriate. While the ruling did not go so far as to allow the local inhabitants to elect their own officials, it was a step in the right direction.

Until now, the five new townships had all been subject to appointed municipal officials, affiliated with Shas who had no knowledge of the intricacies of local government management.

AT THE closing session of the workshop, to which prominent Jewish and Arab public figures were invited, a heated debate took place between the workshop par-

ticipants and the Interior Ministry's regional head. The participants argued that the government practiced discrimination in its policy toward the Beduin, giving them a lower level of services than their Jewish neighbors receive, refusing to recognize their villages formally - in an attempt to force them to move into the planned townships - and negating their basic democratic right to elect their own municipal officials.

In response, the Interior Ministry official argued there was no political discrimination. Instead, the relative plight of the Beduin communities was to be expected, given the fact that this is a population still in the process of exchanging its nomadic lifestyle for settled communities. It was, he argued, only a matter of time before the social and economic conditions of the Beduin communities would improve.

Lying beneath these claims and counter-claims is the struggle for land. Driving along the roads of the northern Negev, one is aware of the rapid increase in Beduin villages and orchards, planted as a means of

controlling land, while at the same time the local media are full of reports of court orders enabling the authorities to destroy all "illegal" buildings, erected without planning permits which, anyway, would not have been granted.

The Beduin of this region are perhaps the most deprived of all of Israel's diverse population groups - Jewish and Arab. The state has done very little to enter into real dialogue with this population, preferring to view them as an uneducated nomadic population that needs to be told how to behave, where to live and how to manage their municipal affairs.

But the Beduin are also benefiting from some of the fruits of modern life, not least education and empowerment. And as they continue to do so, they become more aware of their rights and the ways through which these rights can be articulated.

It is high time that the government realized it can no longer behave in the same paternalistic fashion of the past 50 years. Modernization is not only about the provision of physical amenities, such as houses, electricity and sewage, but equally - if not more so - about being equal citizens of a democracy.

Failure to recognize, and act on, this stark reality will only bring about greater political frustration and feelings of political disenfranchisement which, in turn, will lead to increased tensions and violent demonstrations. This scenario should be avoided at all costs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HAGGADA SUPPLEMENT

Sir, - On April 15-16, 1946, at the first Pessah after defeat of the Nazis and the liberation of the camps, about 200 survivors of the Shoah living in Munich gathered for a Seder at a restaurant possibly named the "Deutsches Theatre Restaurant."

The Seder was conducted by the US Army Chaplain, Rabbi Abraham J. Klausner - still alive, and well known for his exceptional activities on behalf of camp survivors in the post-war years.

Participants at the Seder used a special Zionist-oriented Supplement to the Haggada, in Yiddish and Hebrew, which was created by survivors, Y.D. Sheinson (arranger and designer) and the Hungarian woodcut artist Adler Miklos, signed under the name "Ben Benjamin."

The woodcuts vividly rendered Holocaust events. The Supplement was published by the

United Zionist Histadrut and Noar Halutz Meuhad (Nocham) but then printed by the US Army with a large military emblem A on its cover.

For a research project leading to a new publication of this Haggada Supplement, I am trying to reach anyone who attended this 1946 Seder in Munich, or knows about the making of the Supplement.

If persons with such information would contact me, it would be very much appreciated. I can be reached by mail to: Professor Saul Touster, Brandeis University, 180 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02116 USA; or by fax to that address via 617 262-7063; or by telephone 617 262-7062; or by e-mail: itaylor@mit.edu

SAUL TOUSTER
Professor Emeritus,
Brandeis University,
Waltham, MA.

NO PRANK

Sir, - Last month, a terrible crime was committed. A father of 12 was brutally murdered. A man returns home after a day of work. Suddenly a hand with a stick stretches out from a truck and puts an end to his life. A youthful prank, we are told by those responsible for the well being of these boys.

Such a prank, for Jews, awakens, or should awaken, blood-curdling associations from the not-too-distant past. Our prime minister said a few words about law and order and how we will not tolerate lawlessness, and that was the end of that.

Oh well, long ago, many of us gave up on any hope that either the prime minister or any of his fellow travelers on the Right, could be expected to show any empathy for the suffering of mere Arabs.

But where are the leaders of the enlightened Left? Where is President Weizman, who has proved that he can rise above the insensitivity that typifies the national consensus?

Where are the yefeh nefesh (do-gooding) soldiers in the cause of justice? Why can't they demonstrate even the slightest empathy with the family's terrible pain?

How can we possibly reach any kind of peace with our neighbors if we refuse to recognize their pain, even after such a terrible crime?

Where is the reciprocity that our prime minister harps on about so much?

SHIMON MALKA
Spokesman,
Ministry of Religious Affairs,
Jerusalem.

Rehovot.

GONNIE BASS

PRAYERS ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT

Sir, - The Western Wall is not our most holy site. That is the Temple Mount - which is so holy that religious Jews are not permitted to go there in our present state of ritual impurity. However we may and do go to the Western Wall without any ritual precautions as it is no holier than the rest of Jerusalem.

Reform Jews do not worry about ritual purity, so why not let them hold their services on the Temple

Mount?

- 1) This would avoid conflict with the haredim.
- 2) It would strengthen our claim to the Temple Mount area.
- 3) The Reform Jews would develop relations with the Arabs - including joint services like they hold with Christians in America.

KENNETH L. COHEN
Jerusalem.

ORTHODOX PERCENTAGE

Sir, - Allow me to make a correction to Abraham Foxman's article "The dangerous pluralist debate" (July 6), in which he wrote: "20 percent of Israelis are Orthodox or traditional and 80% are not."

Most professional surveys carried out during the last few years as to how Israelis define them-

selves religiously have shown that between 50% to 75% define themselves as Orthodox or traditional.

SHIMON MALKA
Spokesman,
Ministry of Religious Affairs,
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On July 8, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported from Lake Success that the UN Security Council accepted by eight votes to five, with three abstentions, the extension of the truce for such period as may be decided upon in consultations

with the mediator, Count Bernadotte. The demilitarization of Mount Scopus was completed under the supervision of UN truce staff.

25 years ago: On July 8, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported from Amman that the Jordanian govern-

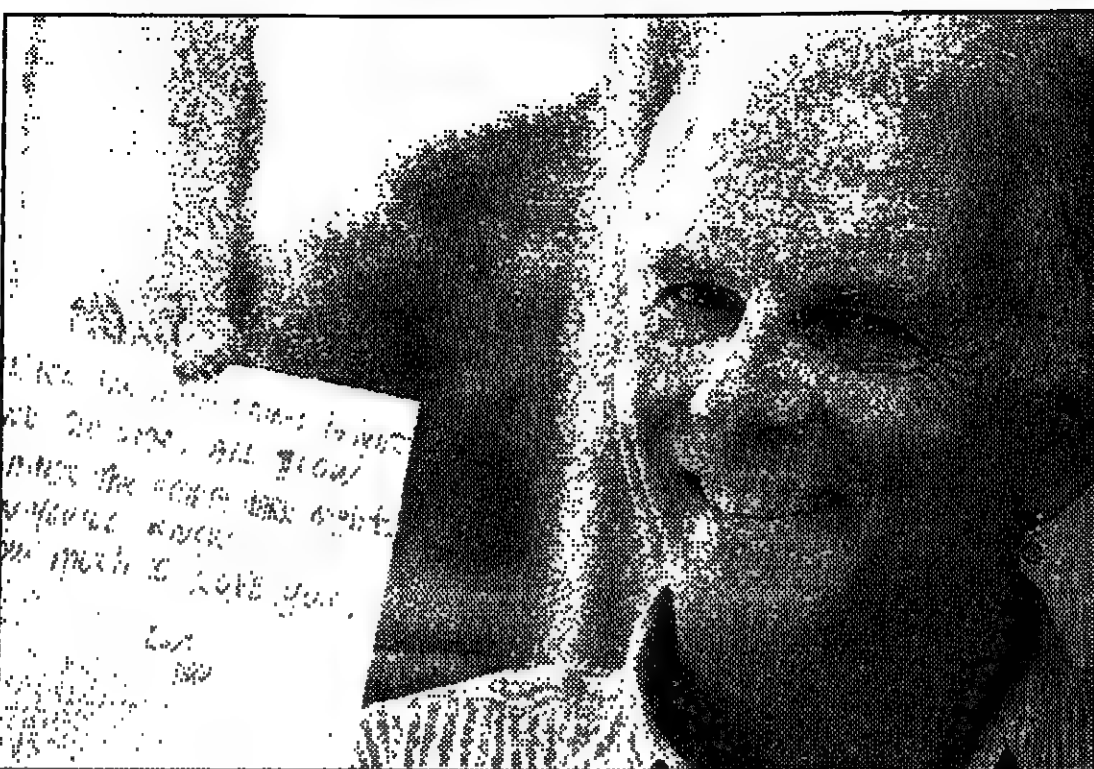
ment demanded an official explanation from Tunisia of president Habib Bourguiba's suggestion that Jordan is "an artificial state" and that a Palestinian state should be established on Jordanian territory.

Alexander Zvielli

UPDATES

Love in a lunch box

For years Cara Garton found something extra in her schoolbag — notes from her father guiding her within the limits of his divorce agreement with her mother, showing her he cared. Now those notes have become a popular book, Arthur Hirsch writes



Courtney Garton: What his prose lacks in elegance, it makes up for in earnestness. (The Baltimore Sun)

WHAT HE had turned into *Napkins: Lunch Bag Notes from Dad*, a 159-page book with a soft cover and a softer heart. The prose is not elegant, but the writer is earnest enough in his intentions. The napkin notes, says Garton, let his daughters "know I was a major part of their lives. And that's exactly what I wanted them to know."

There's Cara at age seven or eight, shaken by a visit to a Halloween haunted house. There's Cara trying to lose weight, competing in lacrosse, learning to drive, discovering boys, feuding with her sister and her father. There's Dad reflecting on trying days as father to a teenage girl: "In Between at Fifteen We don't get to talk. Me and You. The way we used to do. You've got things on your mind. And not much time. To find for just sittin' a spell. Oh well."

That's part of being fifteen. And I know you don't mean it. Love, dad.

The notes mark the trail of a girl's growing up and her father's struggle to guide her within the limits of his divorce agreement with her mother.

make breakfast and lunch. In their house in Annapolis, Cara says, you'd have a view of the kitchen from the stairs leading up to the second floor.

Sometimes she would sit on the stairs quietly and watch her father sitting at the kitchen table, struggling to come up with a napkin note.

Garton says he discovered that kids are "not asking for perfection" from a parent. "I think they're asking for effort."

He established relatively modest goals for his children: He wanted them to finish college, not get pregnant before they were married, and have good adult relationships with each other and their father.

It appears all objectives were achieved. Cara works in the human resources division of Mercy Health System near Philadelphia. Adrienne Cruz, 28, is a Spanish teacher living in San Diego with her husband and five-month-old daughter, Annabelle.

Modest though it may be, the book demanded considerable effort over the course of about two years. Some 100 prospective publishers and agents rejected Garton's query letters. After the proposal was accepted by Perry Publishing — a small, three-year-old publisher in Columbia, Md. — Garton went through about a dozen rewrites before he had a manuscript acceptable to him and his editor.

He knew he wasn't a writer. In re-reading the napkin notes all those years later, though, he "discovered my poetry was worse than I thought."

The quality of the verse notwithstanding, the book has been well-received. Even before Garton and Cara made a quick appearance on Oprah Winfrey's show last month, the first printing of 2,500 had sold out. A second printing of 5,000 is under way.

Amazon.com, the Internet book store, has listed *Napkins* as a "Parenting and Families Editor's Recommended Book," praising Garton's "self-revealing, loving tales of life as a father."

(The Baltimore Sun)



Credit for comics



By Judy Siegel Itzkovich

Comics: Ha'studio Sheli (*My Comics Studio*), a CD-ROM in English and Hebrew, based on the original English-language disk by Unique Soft Media, produced here by Makhshvet, for ages six and up, NIS 149

Rating: ★★★★★

Too many edutainment computer programs mean for youngsters are like a factory assembly line: You're given the parts to put together according to set instructions, and out comes a pile of identical products at the end.

But the best CD-ROMs for kids — like this one — give their users a large variety of tools to stimulate their interest and exercise their imaginations.

This program will interest creative teenagers, as well as their younger siblings from age six.

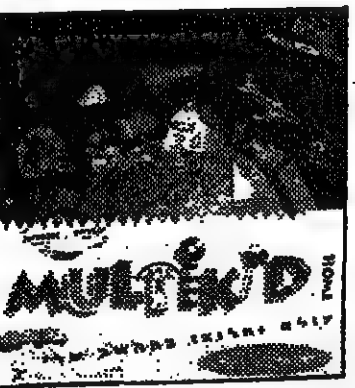
With this disk, which requires Windows 95, they can produce their own comic books — for printing in color or for storing, complete with sound effects, on a diskette.

Even younger kids will have no problem navigating, as there is an excellent help menu in the form of an animated red desk lamp. Click the help button and the lamp, which speaks with a child's voice, comes to life and invites you to press on icons to get a clear explanation. The help menu is a welcome function as there are 18 different icons on the top of the screen.

First pick a background scene: there are 72 different ones, mostly pictures, but also quite a few textured designs in various colors, which serve as a scene for producing your comic strip.

Then pick any of — count 'em — 151 characters ("heroes"), which run alphabetically from aliens and astronauts, through babies, dinosaurs, drunks, grannies and hippos to kangaroos, mothers, robbers, sheriffs, sheikhs, spacemen and vultures.

When you select a character, click again to pop it down anywhere on the background scene;



another click lets you decide on a size (merely by sliding a knob to the right or left), move, copy or erase it. The next step is to select any of 80 objects to enrich the scene, and these can be altered in the same manner.

THE most important part of comics is the text bubble: There are 36 different varieties — round, square, with two speakers or one — and these too can be placed in the proper size. Choose from among dozens of Hebrew and English fonts in sizes 10 to 48 point and up to 26 colors to type in each character's words.

One of the best features is the special effects: You can either record your own voice, music or noise using your computer microphone, or select from among scores of pre-recorded sounds that are visually shown on the screen with a symbol. These include bird songs, whines, beeps, chimes and almost anything else you can think of.

If you're not satisfied with a two-dimensional scene, go into the "house-building" section.

Drag the mouse to produce lines for a three-dimensional house, complete with doors and windows; click a button, and this scene is instantly transformed into the interior of a three-dimensional house. You can also decide on the color of the floor, walls, ceiling, windows and doors of the interior so they don't clash with your characters and objects.

Working frame by frame, the user produces a personalized comic book for printing out with a good ink-jet printer or storing to disk. No two comic books will be alike, and they can be used as greeting cards, messages to stick up on the bulletin board at work, or light-hearted gifts.

Multikid and Me, a CD-ROM in English and Hebrew, by Edusoft, marketed by Bug Multisystem, for children aged four to 10, NIS 169

Rating: ★★★★★

I looked forward to trying this disk, as Edusoft developed the outstanding English-teaching series, *English Plus*, which I recommend to everyone. But the disk in the *Multikid* series, supposedly for youngsters aged four to 10, is a real disappointment.

The explanatory booklet that comes with the disk says it is one of seven aimed at this age group: nature, science, music, at home, on the road and handicraft workshop, in addition to the program under review.

I tried only this one, devoted to the human body, and just didn't see the point.

It begins badly: The home page shows a wide variety of scenes, but only two of them can be clicked; the rest come to life only when you insert any of the other six CD-ROMs into your computer. What a disappointment!

The two icons represent a toy store and the human body. While the second fits the subject of the disk, I don't really know what a toy store has to do with "Me," which is the title.

The program stars Muki and Pudding, two cute dinosaur-like creatures that waddle across the screen. Click the toy store icon and see the inside of a shop with many pictures, but only three actually function — another disappointment. And once you go through them, they are boring, except maybe for a four to six year old.

One needs to set down Russian Babushka dolls in place, according to size, on rocks along a river and on platforms so they will fit in under hanging candies. Really!

Another item on the disk teaches how to read the clock. If a 10-year-old — the upper age limit given for this disk — doesn't know the hands and numbers on the clock, maybe he'd better stick to his digital watch with the built-in calculator.

The "human body" section is just as bad: Pudding enters his bathroom looking a bit different each time: Either his teeth or hair are dirty and he needs toothpaste or shampoo, or he has a stomachache and needs the toilet. Click on the right object and you are praised, but the Hebrew uses the male verb form only; girls aren't considered.

One more item requires the child to classify objects — written or in pictures — by placing them in note-books signifying a certain topic.

The final section, which has no rhyme or reason, is about sports: You are presented with 15 photos of sports activity. Click on each one and see 10 or 20 seconds of video film about the sport — from dog racing to golf and skydiving — but the name of the sport is never given. You can't stop the action in the middle by pressing or clicking anything, and have to wait patiently until the film clip ends.

Using the disk requires the child to click either the right-hand or left-hand button on the mouse, which is very annoying and confusing for younger children. Why complicate things? The nice graphics and music don't make up for this disk's shortcomings.

What's happened to you, Edusoft? Why produce such a silly hodgepodge? Go back to teaching English.

Father's Day was months past when Courtney Garton's younger daughter handed him a gift in August 1995.

Cara Garton had graduated from college, and was moving on to her new job and a new life in Philadelphia. It was time to say good-bye to her father, with whom she had lived while she finished school.

As she walked to the car that day she handed him an old shoebox. He had never seen the box, but the contents looked familiar: paper napkins, most of them white, many spotted with the residue of lunches he'd prepared for Cara in elementary, middle and high school. Each napkin bore a rhymed, hand-written note from Garton. Each had been slipped into the bag with the peanut butter, the tuna, whatever the day's offering might be.

Unknown to Garton, Cara had saved many of the napkins, stashing about 150 of them in the box. "He looked at it, he goes: 'What is this?'" Cara recalls. "He says, 'What am I going to do with this?'" I said, "I don't know, make them into a book or something." It was just an offhand comment.

Garton, 51, a former high school teacher, watched Cara, then 21, drive off in her Honda. He was amazed she had saved the napkins. He considered it "one of the nicest tributes a child could give a parent."

Cara's parting remark was casual, but it stayed with him. A book? From napkins? He wasn't a writer. And he certainly hadn't been a poet. He'd been a father trying to affirm a connection with his daughters after divorcing their mother the year Cara turned three and her sister, Adrienne, turned six. The notes were jotted in the hours around dawn, words of advice, encouragement, apology.

Written to both girls but preserved only by Cara, the notes were private. Who would be interested?

"After a while," says Garton, "I started to think I had unique material."



By Ruth Mason

Teachers, both here and in the U.S., have been saying for years that their jobs are becoming more difficult. Children are less well behaved, and skills and work habits "aren't what they used to be."

Some teachers have found a way to improve the situation using communication skills based on the teachings and writings of Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish.

Faber and Mazlish were two suburban teachers and housewives who decided to attend a workshop by child psychologist Dr.

Parenting

That 'alien tribe' called teens

By ELIZABETH KASTOR

To adults, they are aliens. All attitude and intensity. Teenagers — to those who left the condition long ago — are a problem to be solved, a group to be dismissed, worried over, redeemed, condemned or merely avoided.

But Reston, Va., writer and mother Pat Hersch chose not to avoid them. Instead, she spent five years in their world. Her new book, *A Tribe Apart*, follows half-a-dozen ostensibly average Reston teenagers as they transform themselves into adults.

She met with them over innumerable hamburgers and mountains of fries, sat in on their classes and took their pop quizzes, absorbed their crises and elicited their secrets.

"We know adolescents in the negative," Hersch says. "There really is no other age group in society we look at so entirely negatively. It's a combination of fear and concern about what might happen, about what we hear has happened."

For the kids, Hersch became part friend, part parent, part counselor, part documentarian. For her readers, she hoped to reveal the secrets within their own homes.

The scary outline of those secrets have made headlines for years — sex, drugs, all the bad news about teens — but Hersch did not believe parents understood the day-to-day experiences and beliefs that shaped their kids' actions.

Hersch chose her subjects because they were engaging, thoughtful, intriguing, willing, not because they seemed to embody a menu of social ills. But what she found was that within each life, large dramas were brewing, often fed by an assumption that adults

neither knew nor wanted to know what was happening.

There is Ann, who sees no adults willing to care for her friends or herself, so she takes charge and arranges an abortion for an acquaintance. (Hersch gave all the kids pseudonyms.) Ann not only covers for her younger sister, Courtney, when she sneaks out at night, she worries about her, attempts to mother her.

Brendon, watching his family struggle to hold onto an upper-middle-class Reston dream, abandons faith in school and achievement and spends his days getting high, getting by and spraying elaborate graffiti on neighborhood walls.

One girl is forced into drunken sex at a party. Another attempts suicide.

Believing that the kids might not open up if they thought she was reporting back to their parents, Hersch chose to get the parents' permission to write about their kids, and then rarely spoke to them again. She told them she would send up a signal if the kids were in obvious danger, but would not tamle.

"THIS book is about tuning out adult voices," Hersch says. "I really isolated myself to a large extent."

She took the kids at their words when they described their families, trusting her reporter's instincts and mother's savvy to pick up inconsistencies or embellishments.

That decision at times deprives the book of context, and at least one critic has faulted Hersch for it (the reservations came in a generally positive *New York Times* review).

Adolescents, after all, are given to feeling ignored and misunder-

stood. They often conceal their vulnerabilities. Without the parents' side of a story, it is hard to know where the truth lies.

Being privy to all those secrets was far from uncomplicated.

Hersch learned of one girl's rape by another student, which took place at one of a series of alcohol-soaked parties, months after it happened.

At times, Hersch believes now, the kids would deliberately wait to tell her about things that might concern her until long after they had occurred — perhaps to protect her, perhaps to ensure she did not get too involved.

She seems to have resolved for herself the ambiguities of her role in the kids' lives.

"Just by being an adult, by being available to talk," she says, "I thought I was doing something. There were huge amounts of times when, as a parent, I would have gotten involved. But as a journalist, I was dropping in on a life in progress. Not that I didn't give advice. I just didn't ground anyone."

But, Hersch thinks, some grounding should have been done. That parents did not get more involved in some of the lives she was observing appalls her.

Despite the clichéd image of the overattentive "soccer mom," Hersch saw plenty of kids whose parents never came to a game, never saw them play in a concert.

"We as a nation are so stuck on day care," Hersch says. "We can't even figure out what to do with our babies who need our attention. By the time kids get older — 10, 11 — we feel unless they're doing something bad and hit us in the face with it, we feel fine leaving them alone."

So when a fifth grader says, "I'm dumb," his teacher may say, "No you're not. You just don't study."

Faber and Mazlish suggest that instead, that teacher try to put him or herself in the child's shoes, and feel along with him. The teacher might say, "Something about that long-division problem is frustrating you."

This kind of response can lead to a discussion of the problem, and to the child's finding a solution.

A KINDERGARTEN teacher who attended one of Faber and Mazlish's workshops wrote to describe what she had learned on her first day in a new class:

"The noise level in the room was high. One little boy was crying. His tears were splashing over the outline of an apple that I had asked him to color. Normally, I would have said, 'There's nothing to cry about. I'm sure you can color a very nice picture.'"

"But I stopped myself and sat down beside him and tried to think about how he must be feeling. Then I said, 'It must be hard to be in

this classroom. There's so much noise and so many children, and everything is so new. You probably wish you were home right now in your own kitchen with your mother.'"

"He stared at me and stopped crying. Then he picked up his red crayon and made a faint line. I said, 'I see an apple starting to get ripe.'"

"He made another line, and then I left to attend to the other children."

"A few minutes later, I felt a gentle tap on my back. There was the little boy. He was holding out his paper to me with his apple all filled in. Very earnestly he said, 'Please, teacher, I need more work to do.'"

"What happened?" Faber and Mazlish ask in a 1987 article in *American Educator* called "How to Talk So Students Will Listen and Listen So Students Will Talk." "What mysterious process took place?"

"By acknowledging the little boy's distress, by putting his confusion and unhappiness into words, the teacher enabled him to deal with his bad feelings and let go of them."

"When we accept our students' feelings, we free them to think and to work."



Teenage life is a drama largely hidden from adults. (Sarit Uziel)

"But we haven't considered the cumulative effect of kids being on their own for eight to 10 years."

The kids in Hersch's book who had the smoothest adolescence were also, not surprisingly, those whose parents were the most engaged.

Coulter Teatley (called Charles in the book), an African-American lacrosse player and class presi-

dent, struggled to avoid making even a tiny mistake in high school out of fear he would fulfill every negative stereotype of black teens.

But his parents understood all too well the pressure he was under and supported his efforts: He is now studying architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. (The Washington P

Gardener's



By BatSheva Mink
and David Brauner

A great display of color, however it's pronounced

As children we loved to "pop" unopened fuchsia buds. And fuchsia, like lavender and violet, was one of those specific color names only grown-ups used.

But now that we're grown up, we see the fuchsia in a different light – as simply one of our prettiest garden flowers. Few other plants offer such a long display of color in the shadier corners of a garden.

The fuchsia plant is one that can instantly separate the botanists from the gardeners and flower-lovers in general. The botanist will say "fuchsia-ah," while the gardening clan will say, quite naturally, "fuchsia."

There are two stories, one official and one less official, concerning the history of the fuchsia in the West.

The botany books tell us that the fuchsia was discovered in the jungles of the West Indies by the French botanist Charles Plumier in 1700. He named his discovery in honor of the famous German botanist Leonhard Fuchs (1501-1566), who wrote his ground-breaking treatise *De Historia Stirpium* (*Of a Narration on Plants*) in 1542, over 150 years before the fuchsia was introduced into Europe.

The second story is more entertaining.

James Lee, a nurseryman of the late 18th century, happened to spy an unusual plant growing in a pot in the window of a cottage in Wapping, near London. He made inquiries and the woman of the house explained that it had been brought to her by her husband, a sailor named Hogg.

Believing it to be the first such plant to reach England, Lee managed to persuade Mrs. Hogg to part with her plant for eight guineas, which was a princely sum in those days. Lee was said to have bred and sold three hundred plants at one guinea each within two years of his original purchase. The plant was a *fuchsia magellanica*.

Fuchsias (Heb. *fook'zia*) are a genus of about 100 species of deciduous trees and shrubs belonging to the family *Onagraceae*, which makes them relatives to the evening primrose (no relation to the European primrose or *primula*). They are indigenous mainly to Mexico, Chile and Peru, but a few species are also native to New Zealand.

Only a few native species of fuchsias are in general cultivation, chiefly because the new hybrids are preferred.

The fuchsia did not reach

Britain until toward the end of the 18th century. During the Victorian period, fuchsias became very fashionable and many new varieties were developed. But, as with many fashions, interest in the fuchsia declined dramatically during World War I.

However, in America the breeding of new and exciting varieties continued. In the 1950s and '60s, when some of the very large flower varieties were developed, the fuchsia returned to become a garden favorite, and remains so till today.

Popularly known as "lady's eardrops," fuchsia flowers dangle charmingly like little Christmas-tree lights. Most kinds are purplish red, but others come in blue, pink, white and red. Some even combine two colors.

Many varieties have a pendulous habit of growth which makes them the number one plant for hanging baskets. They have also become a very popular hedging plant, growing up to three meters high.

One other benefit of growing fuchsias is that the iridescent sunbirds and hummingbirds are attracted to them. These little creatures can hover under the pendulous blossoms and drink their fill of nectar – a delightful sight to watch.

If there is a shady spot or shelter (pergola or tree) in your garden, the modern, large-flowered kinds are ideal plants to grow. These have a long flowering season, and can easily be propagated from cuttings.

The only fuchsia that can take full sun is the *F. fulgens*, which has long narrow flowers in scarlet-orange. This kind is not as attractive as the modern hybrids of which it is the parent.

Fuchsias grow very well in large pots and containers. They can also be trained as small trees. This habit of growth is particularly attractive, resulting in a straight stem growing to the required height, at which point the side shoots are allowed to branch out only at the top to produce a head or canopy. To do this, you have to remove any side shoots that are produced.

When the required height is achieved, usually 90-120cm., the tip is pinched out and the resulting shoots at the top of the stem are encouraged to form a bushy head. A stake will be needed to keep the young plant upright.

Here are a few helpful hints for growing fuchsias.

Position and light.

Select a north-facing or shady position with plenty of natural light.



Fuchsia, or 'lady's eardrops': Few other plants offer such a long display of color in the shadier corners of a garden.

Soil.

Fuchsias require well-drained soil with an addition of compost or peat moss.

Watering. Water freely in summer and try not to let them dry out.

Feeding. Feed your plant once a week with a liquid or soluble fertilizer, to keep it flowering for a longer period.

Maintenance. To encourage bushy plants, pinch out shoots when they are about 15cm. long. If grown in pots, plants may need reporting in fresh soil after a while.

Winter care. Mature fuchsias take a partial rest in winter. Very little water should be given, but if it is a dry winter the soil must not be allowed to dry out completely.

Pruning. In early spring side branches made in the previous year are cut back to within two or three joints of their base, otherwise there will

be a tangled mass of growth and poor quality flowers.

Propagation. Cuttings can be taken during the summer months. Cut young side shoots, 10-12cm. long, without flower buds.

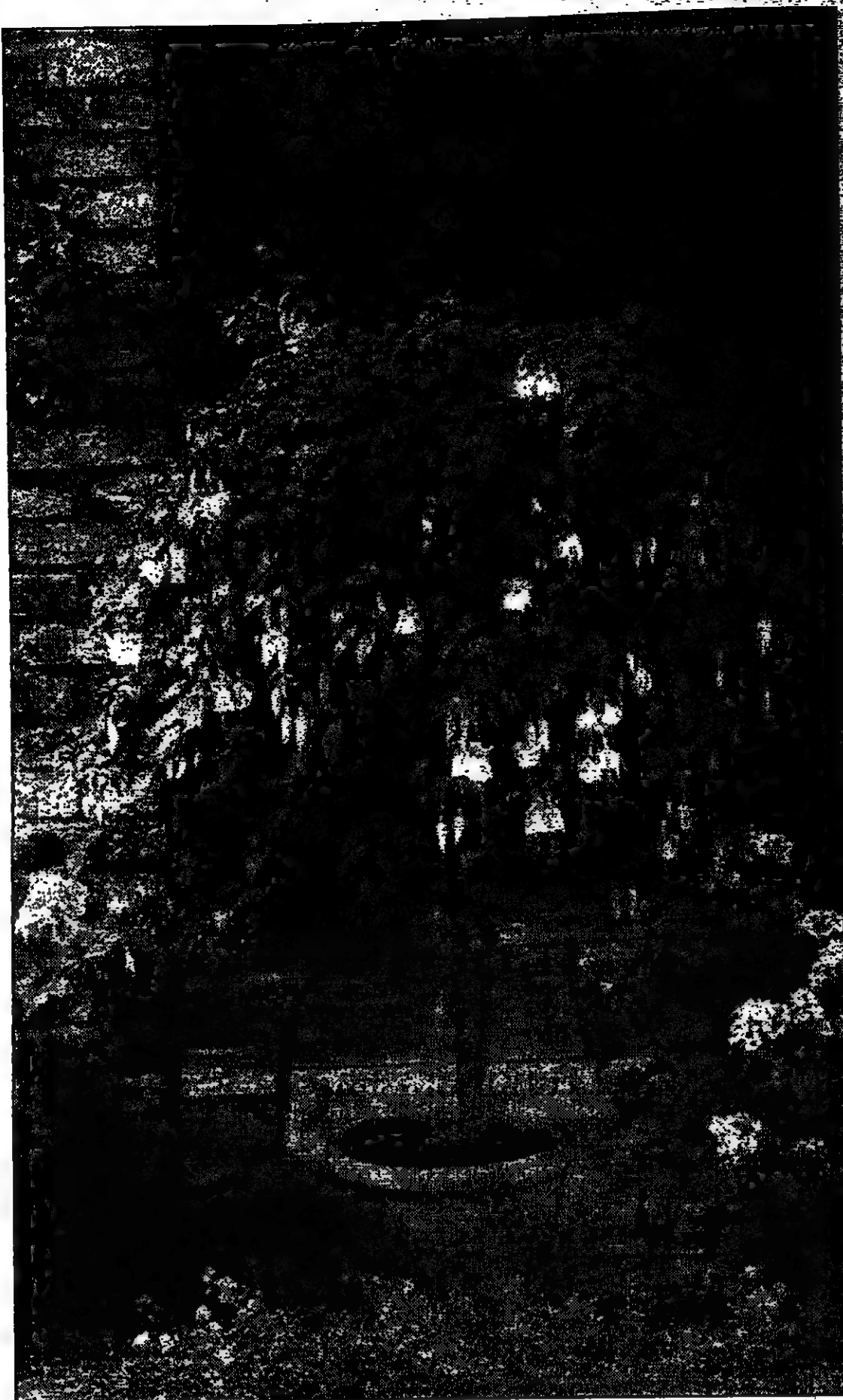
Insert the cuttings singly in small pots of equal parts peat moss and sand or perlite. Keep the pots shaded and the potting mix well watered. When they have filled their pots with roots, transfer to larger pots.

Pests and diseases: Fuchsias can be troubled by greenfly and red spider mites which cause mottling of the foliage; in bad cases, the foliage will wither and drop. Examine the undersides of the leaves periodically and spray at first sign of trouble.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact BatSheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).

TIP OF THE WEEK

If fuchsias are cut back after flowering, their foliage will increase and they will flower more freely in the coming season.



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Book

By D'vora Ben Shaul

Keeping an ant farm, or

formicarium, as it is properly

called, is a source of

never-ending fascination for

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Although ant farms are seem-

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Secondly, you must provide

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Many books recommend moist

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However, I do not advise putting

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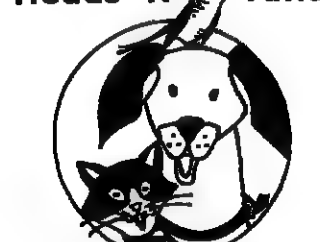
and water can be placed on the lid

of the ant farm, a place visited

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Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Keeping an ant farm, or formicarium, as it is properly called, is a source of never-ending fascination for people of all ages. It is especially appropriate for people who do not want a particularly active pet, who want to be free to go away for a few days without worrying and who seek a clean hobby with neither mess nor unpleasant odors.

Although ant farms are seemingly trouble-free, there are a few problems to watch out for. First, one must be sure to keep the farm moist, to prevent the earth from crawling and the tunnels from caving in.

Secondly, you must provide enough moisture to allow the ants to drink without having the entire container go moldy.

Many books recommend moist cotton balls once a week, but I do not like this system. A nice slice of apple or raw potato will provide the ants with all the moisture they need.

However, I do not advise putting moist foods, or any food at all, into the formicarium. Instead food and water can be placed on the lid of the ant farm, a place visited regularly by the ants. You can even offer them a few drops of sweetened water on a piece of wax paper. It is a marvelous sight to see a bunch of ants around the little pool, looking like thirsty cattle around a pond or water trough. The entire formicarium should sit in a shallow pan of water to prevent the ants from escaping.

To insure that the soil stays

moist, lightly mist the surface of the formicarium with a spray bottle. An empty window cleaner bottle makes a fine sprayer.

Don't wet the soil too much. A fine spray will do – once a week in summer and about once a month in winter, unless the formicarium is in a room with central heating.

One of the most common questions is where to find the ants to start a formicarium. A common method is to dig up an ant hill and take a bunch of ants and as many ant larva as you can. The larva look like little white grains of rice.

But an even better source is outdoor flower pots. I have rarely seen a collection of potted plants in the

garden or on a balcony that didn't have at least one well established ant's nest. Just remove the plant and gently transfer the entire pot contents to your ant farm container. The advantage here is that you get an entire colony, especially if you make the transfer at night.

Another common question is which variety of ants to put in the farm. Ants come in a variety sizes and it is really a matter of preference.

In my experience the very, very tiny brown ants are not a good choice since they are very hard to see without a magnifying glass, robbing you of a lot of the fun of watching. On the other hand, the

big harvester ants are also not the best choice because they simply need too much space. In nature, harvester ants make very big hills or pismires and their underground tunnels are very extensive.

The best choice is a medium-sized brownish or reddish ant. These ants are large enough to observe without difficulty, yet live well in a fairly confined space.

Such a collection is a wonderful opportunity to get an inside view of an ant hill's workings. You can watch the workers bringing in food, taking out rubbish, tending the larva and living their highly organized lives right before your very eyes.

Israel a pipeline

By NINA G...

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Wednesday,
July 8, 1998

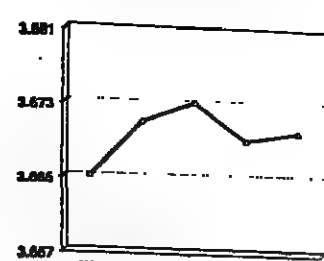
BUSINESS & FINANCE

13

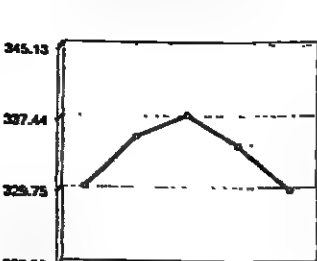
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL

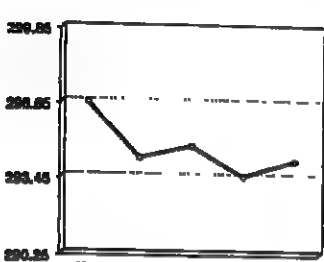


MAOF INDEX



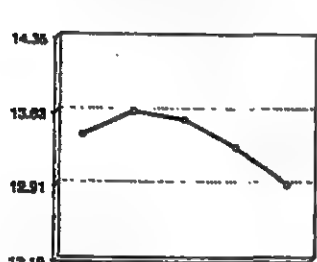
GOLD

\$ per ounce



OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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Manufacturers report: Economic slowdown lessens in 2nd quarter

By DAN GERSTENFELD
and NINA GILBERT

The economic slowdown continued in the second quarter of the year, albeit at a slower pace, according to a survey published yesterday by the Manufacturers Association.

Sales to the local market continued to decline in the second quarter, with 45 percent of manufacturers surveyed reporting a drop, compared with 53% suffering declines in the first quarter, association economics division head Shuki

Abramovitz said in the report. The survey of 170 factories showed, however, that 24% reported an increase in sales, compared with 18% at the beginning of the year. All sectors surveyed reported a decline in local sales, with the sharpest decrease suffered by clothing manufacturers.

Industrial production declined at a lower pace in the second quarter, with 38% of factories reporting a reduction in production compared with 45% in the first quarter. This decline was offset however, by 32%

of factories reporting an increase in production compared with 25%.

At the same time, exports remained stable. Textile and clothing exports rose sharply in the second quarter, while steel, electronics and chemical businesses reported a decline in sales abroad.

The survey shows, however, that exporters' profits continued to decline, with 41% reporting a decline in profitability, while only 8% enjoyed an increase. Abramovitz said that in the second quarter factories continued to

reduce the number of their workers, with 34% reporting layoffs while only 13% increased their staff.

He added that industrialists expect that the number of employees will continue to decline in the third quarter, while only the high-tech sector intends to recruit new workers, but in a limited amount.

In the third quarter, the companies surveyed predicted that sales to the local market would be down, while exports are expected to remain stable.

High-tech companies are the only

sector predicting a sharp increase in exports, while textiles and chemicals expect a moderate increase.

Meanwhile, food factories expect a sharp decline in exports.

Abramovitz also said that the level of investment would continue to be low, as 34% of companies said they do not plan to invest in the third quarter, compared with 30% in the last survey.

At the same time, 16% said they intend to raise investment sharply, almost the same amount as in the last quarter.



Dor Shalom leader Yuval Rabin (left), European-Palestinian Chamber of Commerce chairman Hanna Siniora, and MK Shimon Peres attend an Israeli-Palestinian business conference in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Yahalom: El Al will never fly on Shabbat

By HAIM SHAPIRO

El Al is a Jewish airline and it will never fly on Shabbat, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom said yesterday.

Yahalom, who was speaking at a news conference at the end of his first visit to the airline since assuming office, said that this was why the government had accepted his view that only 49 percent of the shares of El Al should be offered for sale to the public, with the rest remaining in the hands of the government.

"El Al is not just the Israeli airline, it is the leading airline in the Jewish world," he said.

Yahalom also said that during the privatization process, the government would fully guarantee the pension plans of El Al employees.

Yoel Feldschuh, El Al's director-general, said that the airline is in the midst of working out a series of code-sharing agreements with other airlines. It had already concluded such an agreement with American Airlines, but thus far the US government had opposed the pact as long as Israel did not allow code-sharing flights of KLM and Northwest Airlines.

Code-sharing is a system by which two airlines each list the same flight on their schedules.

Feldschuh also noted that negotiations for code-sharing were underway with Air France and similar negotiations with Lufthansa have already reached the level of working committees.

Israel asks Turkey to secure pipeline from Turkmenistan

By NINA GILBERT

Israel should use its influence with the United States to help advance the construction of a pipeline to transfer Turkmen gas via Turkey instead of through Iran, Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said in talks with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday, according to officials in Sharansky's office.

Cem, on a four-day visit here, was responding to Sharansky's request that Turkey should ensure that the pipeline goes through its soil.

"There is no doubt that the [Turkey] option is better than the gas being pumped through Iran, and Israel will do everything possible to advance the project," Sharansky said.

Sharansky discussed possibilities about the pipeline project with the Turkmen government while visiting there last week.

The Turkmenia recently discovered that they have a tremendous amount of natural gas

reserves, and as a landlocked country they must find ways to transfer it out of the country to foreign markets.

In yesterday's meeting, Cem asked Sharansky to expand the Turkish-Israeli free trade agreement, signed between the countries a year ago, in the agricultural and services sectors. The two decided that the joint Turkish-Israeli economic committee will meet in December to discuss the matter.

Cem also asked about the possibility of advancing the date for the reduction of tariffs on Turkish textile imports, scheduled for 2000. However, Sharansky said that due to the economic slowdown and rising unemployment the issue is very sensitive.

The two ministers also discussed the possibility of joint projects to produce products for export to the United States.

Trade between Israel and Turkey has risen by 30 percent since their free trade accord went into effect last year, the Industry and Trade Ministry noted.

Eilat's mayor eyes hi-tech park with Jordan

By GIL ROFFMAN

Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh yesterday detailed plans for an Israeli-Jordanian joint industrial park on the border between the two countries during a conference of Israeli and Palestinian businessmen in Tel Aviv.

But in terms of Israeli-Palestinian endeavors, a participant referred to the investment atmosphere as "poisoned" by two years of stalemate in overall relations.

The industrial park project, which Kadosh dubbed "Silicon Valley," is intended to be the flagship for a number of projects between the two countries, resulting from United States and European Union encouragement

of investments to enhance the peace between Israel and Jordan.

Plans call for the park to be located at Ein Evrona, Israel, between Eilat and Akaba, near the planned Israeli-Jordanian airport. It is to include high-tech plants, technological incubators, research and development laboratories and exhibition grounds. Kadosh did not give a timetable for completing the project.

The presentation was part of the "Brothers and Sisters for Peace" business forum, organized by the Dor Shalom organization. The conference brought together more than 200 Israeli and Palestinian businessmen to introduce them to prospective partners within their industries.

Participants criticized the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority for causing an unstable atmosphere for investment.

"The last two years have poisoned the atmosphere for investment," said Rafael Silver, a consultant who advises companies in Israel and abroad on investment in the PA areas. "People are saying how can I invest in an unstable business environment?"

Lior Ma'ayan, managing director

of Scitex Corp., said he is exploring cooperation with Palestinian engineers on software development.

Said Abu-Ghosh, the administrative manager of the Bethlehem-based Union of Stone and Marble in Palestine, said his organization has had unofficial contacts with Israeli companies for many years. More formal cooperation has developed since the beginning of the peace process, he said.

Pratt and Whitney sets pace for industrial cooperation

By STEVE RODAN

Pratt and Whitney said yesterday that the value of its current industrial cooperation in Israel, set at \$140 million, exceeded that of any other company.

At a meeting with Israeli industrialists, Pratt and Whitney regional director of industrial cooperation programs Ernest Mellor said his company's current industrial cooperation agreement signed in 1993 sets an obligation level of more than \$300 million. The offsets are to be completed by 2003.

"Thanks to the company's aggressive efforts, that level will be achieved this year, or five years early," Mellor said.

Mellor said that Pratt and Whitney, through its parent company, United Technologies Corp., based in Hartford, Connecticut, provided \$160m. in benefits beyond what was required during the recent period.

The industrial agreements were part of the competitions that Pratt and Whitney won for the supply of engines to military and commercial aircraft in Israel.

This includes the F-15I strike fighter. The company is in competition with GE Aircraft Engines for the supply of the engine for the next batch of US fighter-jets for the Israel Air Force, a decision expected to be taken in the fall.

Pratt and Whitney has close relations with several contractors in Israel. The company has been buy-

ing rotating parts and castings from Bet Shemesh Engines and Mellor said purchases from the Israeli contractor exceeded \$13m. in 1997.

Mellor said Blades Technology International, a joint venture between the Iscar-owned Blades Technology and Pratt and Whitney Precision Parts in Columbus, Georgia, is now manufacturing parts for a Chinese engine company. This, he said, is opening the door to China's vast market.

Pratt and Whitney owns Carmel Forge, a preferred supplier to the US company of major rotating hubs and disk forgings. Mellor said business with Pratt and Whitney will approach \$190m. during the 1993-10 year industrial cooperation agreement.

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Seeing the energy business in a new light

The recent takeovers of Delek and Granit Hacarmel are clearly indicative of hidden value in the TASE

PERSONAL FINANCE



By NEIL COHEN

You would think that nothing has happened over the last two weeks. The main market indices, and our portfolios, have traded sideways. In fact, the focus on the bank stocks has intensified, and there has been a fascinating "takeover battle" played out, while another dramatic transaction has fallen apart.

I am not sure if "takeover battle" is the right term, but it is the closest one I can come up with to describe the Granit Hacarmel sale. Let me provide some background first:

A few months ago, Yitzhak Tshuva succeeded in a clever hostile takeover of Delek, the holding company which owns the Delek energy business, Delek Motors, the highly profitable Mazda distributor in this country and a sizable stake in Supersol.

For Mashav, jointly owned by Koor and Clal, the timing could not have been better, as they wanted to get rid of Granit anyway. Until the Delek deal, TASE-traded energy stocks, i.e. Delek and Granit, had been dead in the water. Despite their fat balance sheets, they generated low returns and poor growth. Tshuva's aggressive takeover brought attention to the hidden

value in the sector, though Delek's non-energy assets (Delek Motors and Supersol) were clearly more interesting than Granit's. This hidden value was made even more apparent when shortly after concluding the takeover, Tshuva struck a deal with American auto-parts magnate Bill Davidson. Davidson was to buy a 44 percent stake in Delek (half Tshuva's holdings) at a fat premium to the price Tshuva paid, giving Tshuva an instant NIS 150 million profit.

To add another twist to this drama, rumors started to circulate a couple of weeks ago of tension between Davidson and Tshuva centering around Tshuva's plan to appoint ex-Koor CEO Benny Gaon chairman of the Delek-Tshuva-Davidson deal. Mashav put its 56% stake on the block, with a minimum total company value of \$300m. Prior to the Delek deal, Granit had been trading at the lower end of the \$200m-\$250m range.

The highest bidders were a couple of property players named Moshe Schnapp and Eli Aran, who run a smallish publicly traded construction company called Genesis. Not only were they relatively unknown in the market-place, they outbid better-known players by quite a significant margin, offering \$211m for the Mashav stake, which valued the whole of Granit at a rich \$375m. Then rumors began to circulate that the pair couldn't put together the funding for the purchase. One of the rival bidders, which already owned a stake in the company, went into the market and bought stock and convertible bonds, which, when converted, would dilute the Mashav stake down below the magical 50% marker. Mashav, sensibly, stepped into the market and bought just enough stock to maintain its majority holding even on a fully diluted basis.

Mashav also expressed its full confidence in the Schnapp-Aran group's ability to come up with the required cash. After all, they wanted to benefit from the hefty price Schnapp-Aran were willing to pay and did not want the banks, who were negotiating to lend them some of the purchase price, getting cold feet. The deadline came and went and Schnapp and Aran were evidently unable to come up with sufficient cash. The closest underbidder, a better-known and better-financed group stepped in and bought control based on a company value of \$350m.

There isn't as much to play with at Granit as at Delek, but still expect to see non-core assets sold off. Supergas and Sonol floated off separately and substantial dividends paid out to the shareholder à la Delek. The Granit share price, which bounced around during the period of uncertainty, has moved steadily upward in the aftermath. The market anticipates that the previously somewhat sleepy company will now be reenergized.

The two takeovers are clearly indicative of plenty of hidden value in the TASE. The only problem is that much of this value is locked up as dead money or finds its way as covert dividends to controlling shareholders. Some of the longstanding holding companies in the once ever-so-centralist Israeli economy are veritable treasure-troves of value. But until someone starts worrying about the share price and that mythical term "shareholder value," small shareholders can sit

forever waiting for some of that value to find its way to them. Equally, there are companies which have no real business being public companies, whose controlling shareholders milk the company through fat salaries and bonuses, which unlike dividends, are not shared with other shareholders. The flipside of all this is

that lots of new money is finding its way into the TASE, with sharp minds and big wallets picking over the values, trying to take control of the assets. Some of the old-fashioned conglomerates are undergoing this process and selling off non-core assets as part of it. The process is a healthy one and will largely drive prices

higher on the TASE.

The writer works in the investment industry and may hold positions in securities mentioned in the column. This column should not be taken as advice to buy, sell or continue to hold any securities and anyone acting on the advice of this column does so at his or her own risk.

NEIL'S PORTFOLIO					
	No. of shares	Cost/basis	Total cost	Current price	Current value
Conservative					
Citrus Properties convertible	10,416.00	0.96	10,025	1.12	11,666.39
Bank Leumi	7.34	1,035.00	7,609	1,325.00	9,895.66
Bank Hapoalim	6.22	1,303.34	8,101	2,129.00	13,252.59
Clal Israel	143.68	69.50	10,025	107.20	15,353.76
Granit Hacarmel	341.00	99.00	10,020	88.25	10,327.44
Bank Hapoalim	425.65	8.81	3,769	12.10	5,150.34
Bank Leumi	556.80	8.98	5,025	8.08	4,488.94
Bank Hapoalim	640.00	7.79	5,010	9.48	6,061.90
Bank Leumi	1,457.66	3.49	5,025	4.89	7,072.00
Koor	28.00	37.05	1,047	44.00	1,232.00
Bank Hapoalim	625.00	12.00	7,500	11.93	7,458.25
1 month cash deposit at 11%			100,000		100,000.00
Total portfolio value					157,897.40
Aggressive					
Leumi Commercial ordinary	4,314.51	1.34	5,775	1.35	5,824.59
Clal Electronics	1.51	283.28	426	550.00	836.50
Bank Hapoalim	292.00	55.75	16,264	57.06	16,652.52
Bank Leumi	3,468.37	2.58	8,923	4.72	16,465.11
Bank Hapoalim	1,219.88	3.37	4,107	7.33	8,966.12
Bank Leumi	224.00	51.00	11,462	57.00	12,576.13
Bank Hapoalim	130.00	81.62	10,612	118.00	15,317.21
Bank Leumi	47.33	211.30	10,025	289.00	13,677.21
Bank Hapoalim	180.33	41.59	7,525	36.50	6,582.05
Bank Leumi	729.93	6.83	5,020	4.75	3,467.17
Bank Hapoalim	4,854.37	1.03	5,020	0.94	4,577.57
1 month cash deposit at 11%			100,000		100,000.00
Total portfolio value					161,165.80
Defensive					
Bank Hapoalim	5,847.95	86	5,020	.77	4,473.58
Bank Leumi	5,308.13	96	5,020	.93	4,817.71
1 month cash deposit at 12%			100,000		100,000.00
Total portfolio value					109,291.29

United Video Group offers to buy Gemstar for \$2.8b.

By COURTNEY SCHLESINGER

United Video Satellite Group Inc., moving to expand its television listings business, said it made an unsolicited offer to acquire Gemstar International Group Ltd. and its interactive television technology for about \$2.8 billion in cash.

United Video, which is controlled by two affiliates of Telecommunications Inc., the No. 2 cable company, is offering \$45 for each of Gemstar's about 62 million shares outstanding. That's a 5.88 percent premium to Gemstar's

shares, which rose 3 1/4 to 42 1/2.

The move comes about a month after United Video agreed to buy TV Guide and TVSM, a publisher of cable listings, from News Corp. for \$2b. in cash and stock. United Video could use interactive technology controlled by Gemstar in its plan to create a TV Guide channel that would give information on everything from sports programs to news and weather.

"We think this is something great for interactive technology," said United Video President Peter Boylan III.

Gemstar couldn't be reached for comment.

The two companies had agreed to form a joint venture earlier this year called Interactive Prevue Guide. Gemstar had earlier filed a lawsuit charging United with infringing on some patents.

The joint-venture agreement lapsed when the companies couldn't come to final terms, sending the dispute back to court. Among other areas of dispute, Gemstar has claimed a patent on technology in Prevue that lets customers use their videocassette

recorder to record a program.

The litigation has prevented United Video from offering new interactive services, Boylan said. "We're sick and tired of not being able to roll out the new programs that are blocked by this suit," he said.

United Video, which is based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, said it first offered to buy Gemstar on March 13.

United sent another letter to Gemstar on July 2, saying it had the support of Viacom Inc., the nation's third-largest media company and the owner of 6% of

Gemstar's stock. United threatened to make its bid public if it didn't hear from Gemstar.

United Chairman and Chief Executive Gary Howard said in a statement that the company believes that Thomas Lau, Gemstar's chairman and biggest shareholder with 24%, will also support the United offer.

Pasadena, California-based Gemstar's stock is up 35% since mid-March.

Gemstar's board hasn't yet scheduled a meeting to vote on the proposed acquisition, Boylan said. United Video will proceed with an

offer even if Gemstar's board rejects the current one, he said.

United Video fell 1 1/4 to 39 1/4.

United disclosed its offer after the close of US markets.

United Video's main business prior to the TV Guide acquisition was the Prevue Channel, whose on-screen scrolling lists of cable and broadcast television shows reach 30 million households. A similar Prevue service overseas has 3 million customers in 20 countries.

The company hopes to integrate interactive services into the digital set-top cable box systems that will eventually allow view-

ers to do tasks such as electronic mail and online banking.

The company is controlled by TCI Ventures Group and Liberty Media Corp., the investment and programming arms of Telecommunications Inc.

AT&T Corp., the nation's largest long-distance telephone company, announced plans last month to buy TCI for \$48b. in stock. AT&T would then combine TCI Ventures and Liberty into a single unit managed by TCI Chairman John Malone and issue a separately traded tracking stock. (Bloomberg)

MUTUAL FUNDS

NIS assets (millions)					NIS assets (millions)					NIS assets (millions)					NIS assets (millions)								
Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1996 (%)	Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1996 (%)	Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1996 (%)	Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1996 (%)				
FLEXIBLE																							
Abi	231.82	231.12	+0.13	40.3	20.2	Abi	126.37	125.18	+0.34	7.17	47.3	Abi	126.37	125.18	+0.34	7.17	47.3	Abi	126.37	125.18	+0.34	7.17	47.3
Adia	138.70	140.32	+0.08	4.75	30.3	Adia	138.70	140.32	+0.08	4.75	30.3	Adia	138.70	140.32	+0.08	4.75	30.3	Adia	138.70	140.32	+0.08	4.75	30.3
Alfa	203.62	205.64	+0.08	4.31	20.7	Alfa	203.62	205.64	+0.08	4.31	20.7	Alfa	203.62	205.64	+0.08	4.31	20.7	Alfa	203.62	205.64	+0.08	4.31	20.7
Almagor	538.29	528.84	+0.53	4.39	3.1	Almagor	538.29	528.84	+0.53	4.39	3.1	Almagor	538.29	528.84	+0.53	4.39	3.1	Almagor	538.29	528.84	+0.53	4.39	3.1
Alon	110.21	108.34	+0.29	—	11.3	Alon	110.21	108.34	+0.29	—	11.3	Alon	110.21	108.34	+0.29	—	11.3	Alon	110.21	108.34	+0.29	—	11.3
Analyst Diversified	789.29	779.98	+0.22	4.66	7.7	Analyst Diversified	789.29	779.98	+0.22	4.66	7.7	Analyst Diversified	789.29	779.98	+0.22	4.66	7.7	Analyst Diversified	789.29	779.98	+0.22	4.66	7.7
Apex	187.30	186.77	+0.03	4.52	35.7	Apex	187.30	186.77	+0.03	4.52	35.7	Apex	187.30	186.77	+0.03	4.52	35.7	Apex	187.30	186.77	+0.03	4.52	35.7
Arad	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Arad	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Arad	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Arad	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4
Arka	203.54	202.32	+0.80	4.76	5.9	Arka	203.54	202.32	+0.80	4.76	5.9	Arka	203.54	202.32	+0.80	4.76	5.9	Arka	203.54	202.32	+0.80	4.76	5.9
Bach	240.30	238.41	+0.23	4.30	4.8	Bach	240.30	238.41	+0.23	4.30	4.8	Bach	240.30	238.41	+0.23	4.30	4.8	Bach	240.30	238.41	+0.23	4.30	4.8
Bank Hapoalim	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Bank Hapoalim	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Bank Hapoalim	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Bank Hapoalim	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4
Bank Leumi	287.79	285.57	+0.14	4.32	29.3	Bank Leumi	287.79	285.57	+0.14	4.32	29.3	Bank Leumi	287.79	285.57	+0.14	4.32	29.3	Bank Leumi	287.79	285.57	+0.14	4.32	29.3
Beka	186.63	185.98	+0.37	4.60	13.3	Beka	186.63	185.98	+0.37	4.60	13.3	Beka	186.63	185.98	+0.37	4.60	13.3	Beka	186.63	185.98	+0.37	4.60	13.3
Beka	367.87	364.48	+0.12	4.08	62.3	Beka	367.87	364.48	+0.12	4.08	62.3	Beka	367.87	364.48	+0.12	4.08	62.3	Beka	367.87	364.48	+0.12	4.08	62.3
Beka	173.88	173.88	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	173.88	173.88	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	173.88	173.88	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	173.88	173.88	+0.00	4.28	43.0
Beka	283.25	283.25	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	283.25	283.25	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	283.25	283.25	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	283.25	283.25	+0.00	4.28	43.0
Beka	175.43	174.79	+0.29	4.24	12.4	Beka	175.43	174.79	+0.29	4.24	12.4	Beka	175.43	174.79	+0.29	4.24	12.4	Beka	175.43	174.79	+0.29	4.24	12.4
Beka	125.92	124.26	+0.78	4.27	10.4	Beka	125.92	124.26	+0.78	4.27	10.4	Beka	125.92	124.26	+0.78	4.27	10.4	Beka	125.92	124.26	+0.78	4.27	10.4
Beka	229.19	229.19	+0.00	4.27	11.3	Beka	229.19	229.19	+0.00	4.27	11.3	Beka	229.19	229.19	+0.00	4.27	11.3	Beka	229.19	229.19	+0.00	4.27	11.3
Beka	103.79	103.30	+0.29	4.21	7.3	Beka	103.79	103.30	+0.29	4.21	7.3	Beka	103.79	103.30	+0.29	4.21	7.3	Beka	103.79	103.30	+0.29	4.21	7.3
Beka	171.12	170.01	+1.02	4.29	24.1	Beka	171.12	170.01	+1.02	4.29	24.1	Beka	171.12	170.01	+1.02	4.29	24.1	Beka	171.12	170.01	+1.02	4.29	24.1
Beka	140.23	140.23	+0.00	4.29	30.3	Beka	140.23	140.23	+0.00	4.29	30.3	Beka	140.23	140.23	+0.00	4.29	30.3	Beka	140.23	140.23	+0.00	4.29	30.3
Beka	157.41	156.02	+0.24	4.34	4.3	Beka	157.41	156.02	+0.24	4.34	4.3	Beka	157.41	156.02	+0.24	4.34	4.3	Beka	157.41	156.02	+0.24	4.34	4.3
Beka	271.72	270.24	+0.30	4.73	28.4	Beka	271.72	270.24	+0.30	4.73	28.4	Beka	271.72	270.24	+0.30	4.73	28.4	Beka	271.72	270.24	+0.30	4.73	28.4
Beka	349.17	349.17	+0.00	4.73	81.4	Beka	349.17	349.17	+0.00	4.73	81.4	Beka	349.17	349.17	+0.00	4.73	81.4	Beka	349.17	349.17	+0.00	4.73	81.4
Beka	126.67	127.43	+0.21	4.44	8.2	Beka	126.67	127.43	+0.21	4.44	8.2	Beka	126.67	127.43	+0.21	4.44	8.2	Beka	126.67	127.43	+0.21	4.44	8.2
Beka	804.32	790.10	+1.00	4.70	76	Beka	804.32	790.10	+1.00	4.70	76	Beka	804.32	790.10	+1.00	4.70	76	Beka	804.32	790.10	+1.00	4.70	76
SHARES																							
Adia	126.37	125.18	+0.34	7.17	47.3	Adia	126.37	125.18	+0.34	7.17	47.3	Adia	126.37	125.18	+0.34	7.17	47.3	Adia	126.37	125.18	+0.34	7.17	47.3
Almagor	538.29	528.84	+0.53	4.39	3.1	Almagor	538.29	528.84	+0.53	4.39	3.1	Almagor	538.29	528.84	+0.53	4.39	3.1	Almagor	538.29	528.84	+0.53	4.39	3.1
Alon	110.21	108.34	+0.29	—	11.3	Alon	110.21	108.34	+0.29	—	11.3	Alon	110.21	108.34	+0.29	—	11.3	Alon	110.21	108.34	+0.29	—	11.3
Analyst Diversified	789.29	779.98	+0.22	4.66	7.7	Analyst Diversified	789.29	779.98	+0.22	4.66	7.7	Analyst Diversified	789.29	779.98	+0.22	4.66	7.7	Analyst Diversified	789.29	779.98	+0.22	4.66	7.7
Apex	187.30	186.77	+0.03	4.52	35.7	Apex	187.30	186.77	+0.03	4.52	35.7	Apex	187.30	186.77	+0.03	4.52	35.7	Apex	187.30	186.77	+0.03	4.52	35.7
Arad	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Arad	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Arad	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Arad	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4
Arka	203.54	202.32	+0.80	4.76	5.9	Arka	203.54	202.32	+0.80	4.76	5.9	Arka	203.54	202.32	+0.80	4.76	5.9	Arka	203.54	202.32	+0.80	4.76	5.9
Bach	240.30	238.41	+0.23	4.30	4.8	Bach	240.30	238.41	+0.23	4.30	4.8	Bach	240.30	238.41	+0.23	4.30	4.8	Bach	240.30	238.41	+0.23	4.30	4.8
Bank Hapoalim	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Bank Hapoalim	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Bank Hapoalim	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4	Bank Hapoalim	118.80	118.86	+0.01	4.71	8.4
Bank Leumi	287.79	285.57	+0.14	4.32	29.3	Bank Leumi	287.79	285.57	+0.14	4.32	29.3	Bank Leumi	287.79	285.57	+0.14	4.32	29.3	Bank Leumi	287.79	285.57	+0.14	4.32	29.3
Beka	186.63	185.98	+0.37	4.60	13.3	Beka	186.63	185.98	+0.37	4.60	13.3	Beka	186.63	185.98	+0.37	4.60	13.3	Beka	186.63	185.98	+0.37	4.60	13.3
Beka	367.87	364.48	+0.12	4.08	62.3	Beka	367.87	364.48	+0.12	4.08	62.3	Beka	367.87	364.48	+0.12	4.08	62.3	Beka	367.87	364.48	+0.12	4.08	62.3
Beka	173.88	173.88	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	173.88	173.88	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	173.88	173.88	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	173.88	173.88	+0.00	4.28	43.0
Beka	283.25	283.25	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	283.25	283.25	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	283.25	283.25	+0.00	4.28	43.0	Beka	283.25	283.25	+0.00	4.28	43.0
Beka	175.43	174.79	+0.29	4.24	12.4	Beka	175.43	174.79	+0.29	4.24	12.4	Beka	175.43	174.79	+0.29	4.24	12.4	Beka	175.43	174.79	+0.29	4.24	12.4
Beka	125.92	124.26	+0.78	4.27	10.4	Beka	125.92	124.26	+0.78	4.27	10.4	Beka	125.92	124.26	+0.78	4.27	10.4	Beka	125.92	124.26	+0.78	4.27	10.4
Beka	229.19	229.19	+0.00	4.27	11.3	Beka	229.19	229.19	+0.00	4.27	11.3	Beka	229.19	229.19	+0.00	4.27	11.3	Beka	229.19	229.19	+0.00	4.27	11.3
Beka	103.79	103.30	+0.29	4.21	7.3	Beka	103.79	103.30	+0.29	4.21	7.3	Beka	103.79	103.30	+0.29	4.21	7.3	Beka	103.79	103.30	+0.29	4.21	7.3
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TASE drops on speculation over tax plan

Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv stocks dropped for a second day yesterday, led by banks, on speculation that the Finance Ministry, which is planning tax reform, will levy taxes on capital gains, including gains from investing in stocks.

The Maof Index of 24 largest companies lost 1.45 percent to 329.75, its lowest level since April 28, and the Tel Aviv-100 index of largest companies dropped 1.41 percent to 316.41.

The Finance Ministry plans to recommend taxes on capital gains and on interest from savings plans, said the daily *Ma'ariv*, citing discussions by unnamed ministry officials. Ezer Appelbaum-Polani, a spokeswoman for Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, said no final decisions have been made and that the ministry has yet to conclude its discussions on the reform.

Concern about new taxes on capital gains "is the main driver in the market right now," said Eli Nahum, head trader at Zannex Securities. "There is nothing that should take the stock market down right now except a tax on the stock market."

The drop included Israeli banks, which earn fees by brokering equity market transactions. Bank Hapoalim, the largest bank by assets, dropped 1.5 percent to 10.76, Bank Leumi, the second-

largest bank, lost 1.1 percent to 7.21. United Mizrahi Bank, the fourth largest bank, shed 1.3 percent to 10.21, and First International Bank of Israel declined 2.8 percent to 2.740.

Israel Discount Bank, which was the heavily traded share with NIS 14.8 million (\$4 million) in transactions, was unchanged at NIS 4.95. The government is accepting bids on its offering of 30 percent to 53 percent of Israel's third-largest bank from investor groups.

Europe

UK stocks were mixed, as telephone companies gained amid optimism for robust future earnings. Glaxo Wellcome Plc dropped on fading speculation it will merge with SmithKline Beecham Plc.

The FTSE 100 index rose 13.10 points, or 0.22 percent, to 6003.4, rising for a fifth consecutive day to close over the 6000 mark for the first time in four weeks. British Telecom Communications Plc, the UK's largest phone company, climbed 1.4p to 805 and Orange Plc, Britain's third largest mobile phone company by sales, rose 31p to 738.

Telephone stocks feature "sexy earnings stories in a market that doesn't have many sexy earnings stories," said Max Ward, the head of equities at Baillie Gifford & Co., which manages 5 billion

STOCKS

Maof 329.75 ▼ 1.45%

Dow Jones 9085 ▼ 0.07%

FTSE 6003.4 ▲ 0.22%

Nikkei 16416.25 ▲ 0.40%

South Korean stocks rose, led by

poors (\$8.2 billion) in UK equities. He has a "very heavy weighting in telecoms," especially in BT.

BT said it plans to seek share buy-back powers at its annual meeting on July 15, enabling it to return cash to its shareholders and potentially boosting earnings per share.

Scottish Power Plc rose 66p to 620, the biggest gainer on the FTSE 100, on speculation the utility is poised to spin off its telecom unit, Scottish Telecom, as a separate company on the stock market. The *Times* of London reported, citing traders.

Asia

South Korean stocks rose, led by

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks edged lower near the close yesterday as investors turned cautious before a torrent of company profit reports that will determine if the market's sudden rebound was justified.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average finished 6.73 points lower at 9,085.04. An afternoon gain of 59 points briefly put the Dow at 9,150 and just a chip shot away from May 13's closing record of 9,211.84.

Broader indexes also suffered modest gains even as the impending barrage of second-quarter profit reports began with a strong showing from Alcoa.

Internet stocks dominated the most active lists again, but this time pulled back as investors looked in some of the monstrous gains in that group over the past week.

The Dow gained 66 points on Monday, extending a three-week rebound that's added 464 points to the blue-chip barometer and pushed this year's gain back above 15 percent.

The market's sudden turnaround has been fueled in part by encouraging signs in Japan's fiscal crisis. But even more pivotal, analysts say, has been a growing sense that maybe Wall Street's forecasts for second-quarter profits had grown too dark.

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Yen gains as Japan seen cutting income taxes

By DAN GERSTENFELD and agencies

The dollar fell against the yen after a Japanese official reportedly said Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto specified government tax reform will include an income tax cut to help power Japan out of recession.

The comments from Hiromu Nonaka, deputy secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, to Jiji Press fueled speculation Hashimoto will have a tax plan ready to discuss with US President Bill Clinton in Washington on July 22.

"The dollar won't break above 145 yen as long as Hashimoto is flying off to the US," said Nick Shannin, a currency strategist at ANZ Investment Bank. "He needs to go there and make promises that

he's doing something to restore economic growth. He wants the US to support Japan and the yen."

The dollar fell to a two-day low of 139.22, from a 139.90 late Monday and down 1 yen from earlier.

Against the German currency, the dollar rose to 1.8144 marks, from 1.8110, after the International Monetary Fund said a loan to Russia would "provide only temporary relief" in the country's struggle to pay back its debts. Germany is Russia's largest lender, so doubts about Russia's ability to repay tend to drive the mark lower.

Japan's Nonaka also said the LDP's tax commission will meet after Sunday's national election and reach a conclusion within the year on how to implement tax reform, according to the Jiji Press report. His comments echo those

CURRENCIES

Dollar 3.6700 ▲ 0.03%

Basket 3.9026 ▼ 0.04%

Mark 2.0220 ▼ 0.28%

Sterling 5.9993 ▼ 0.61%

made earlier by Japanese Finance Minister Hikoichi Matsunaga, who said the government's tax panel will accelerate its discussions about income and corporate tax changes after the election.

Speculation about a permanent tax cut "is entirely behind the dollar's move," said Mick Franks, a currency trader at Bank of Nova Scotia.

Traders said they expect Hashimoto to discuss tax reform at a press conference scheduled for today. Temporary tax cuts and spending plans introduced by the government so far have done little to fuel growth. Japanese machine-tool orders fell for a third straight month in May, sinking 16.2% from a year ago, the biggest decline in four years. That follows a 3.2% drop in April.

The prospect of tax cuts has put a lid on the dollar's rise, but higher levels are justified, said Trevor Neil, a currency analyst at Union Cal Ltd. "We're recommending our clients buy the dollar on the basis that Japan's economy isn't

strong enough to sustain the year at this level."

He said the dollar could rise as high as 147 yen in the next three months.

The mark fell, meanwhile, as Russian stocks dropped on a "slew of negative news," said Eric Jayaweera, a fixed-income analyst at MFK Renaissance in Moscow. Russia's RTS technical index fell 5.4% in the first hour of trading.

Russia is seeking as much as \$15 billion from the IMF to bolster the central bank's reserves and avoid devaluing the ruble. The government owes debt payments of 40.6b rubles (\$6.6b), this month, much of which is owed to Germany.

"There are more jitters in Russia," said Shannin at ANZ Investment Bank. "Germany's bank exposure to Russia is quite vast." (Bloomberg)

Confirmation of cut in output stabilizes oil prices

Oil

Crude oil prices were little changed yesterday, after posting their biggest fall in three weeks, because output cuts planned to soak up a supply glut will likely work, traders said.

On Monday prices fell over 4 percent after a Venezuelan official questioned whether major oil producers are adhering to agreements to reduce output and cut a surplus that recently forced oil prices to 10-year lows.

While the validity of the agreements has been questioned, "the cuts are still taking place and we won't see more selling after yesterday's drop," said Joanna Wales,

head of crude oil futures trading at British Petroleum Plc. "There's value in oil at this price."

London crude oil was little changed yesterday, down 5 cents at \$12.90 after slipping 4.4% the previous day to its lowest closing price since June 19. The equivalent New York crude oil contract declined 6 cents to \$13.86 a barrel, after tumbling 4% Monday.

Precious metals

Gold prices were little changed as the governing council of the European Central Bank met in Frankfurt, where they are expected to discuss the bank's gold policy. ECB President Wim Duisenberg

COMMODITIES

Gold \$294.40 ▲ 1.15%

Crude Oil \$12.94 ▼ 0.11%

CRB 214.16 ▲ 0.77%

Others

Aluminum traded at \$1,296 a ton, little changed from the four-year

which collectively amount to almost 13,000 tons, or five years of global mine output.

Gold for immediate delivery last traded at \$293.85 an ounce in London, 60 cents higher than Monday's close of \$293.25 an ounce.

Gold plunged 22 percent in 1997, reaching an 18-year low of \$276.75 an ounce in January 1998, on concern central banks worldwide wanted to unload much of their gold holdings, as Australia, Argentina and Belgium did last year.

Aluminum traded at \$1,296 a ton, little changed from the four-year

low of \$1,287 a ton it fell to Monday as Italy said its car registrations fell 1.48 percent, indicating demand for the metal might be falling in the world's fifth-largest aluminum consumer. The auto industry is the largest consumer of aluminum.

Coffee futures fell \$5 to \$1,600 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange on expectations for a surge in imports in the coming weeks from a bumper harvest in Brazil, the largest grower.

Brazilian coffee exports rose 16% in June, the first increase in nine months, as farmers delivered beans from the new crop to local ports, the Brazilian Association of Coffee Exporters said.

(Bloomberg)

US bonds fall as dollar declines vs yen

BONDS

US 30-year T-bill yield

5.58 ▲ 0.01

The comments from Hiromu Nonaka, deputy secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, fueled speculation Hashimoto will have a tax plan ready to discuss with US President Bill Clinton in Washington on July 22.

Investors are watching to see the extent to which Japan will commit to tax cuts, analysts said. While Hashimoto said Sunday he sup-

ports tax reform, he hasn't made a specific call for a permanent income-tax cut.

The government is implementing 4 trillion yen in temporary income tax cuts this year and 2 trillion yen next year. Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party is considering extending those cuts indefinitely.

"Investors are waiting to see whether the government can deliver on its plans," said Junya Naruse, a senior analyst at Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd. in Tokyo.

Many analysts and investors are weighing the determination of the Japanese government to cut taxes and close its weaker banks. Either action could boost the yen and slow the flow of Japanese investment to Treasuries, analysts said. Yet many investors remain optimistic that bonds will post further

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gains because they expect Asia's weak economies will drag on US growth and help stifle inflation.

"We still like Treasuries," said Doug Jones, who helps oversee about \$14 billion of bonds at Garmon Investment Management in London. "But we'll need to see either some very weak numbers on the economy or a change of stance from the Federal Reserve for yields to move much lower."

The yield on the 30-year bond has stayed within 10 basis points of the record low for the past two weeks, buoyed by the dollar's strength against the yen and expectations for slower growth and inflation.

(Bloomberg)

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	329.75
Tel Aviv-100	316.41
Bank Leumi	10.76
Bank Hapoalim	10.76
Bank Mizrahi	7.21
Bank Discount	4.95
Bank First Intl	2.74
Bank Leumi	10.76
Bank Hapoalim	10.76
Bank Mizrahi	7.21
Bank Discount	4.95
Bank First Intl	2.74

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Bank First Intl	2.74

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Bank Discount	4.95
Bank First Intl	2.74
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Jerusalem

Welshman Croft defends the realm

IT might not have been the most exciting Test innings of the season, but Robert Croft's 37 not out for England in the third Test against South Africa could prove to be the most valuable.

After captain Alec Stewart's heroic innings ended after lunch on the final day - his 164 was the highest ever Test score made by a wicket-keeper captain - England looked certain to go 2-0 down in the series.

The media corps were offered 10-1 against England drawing by no less a figure than Ian Botham (with the condition that a minimum stake of £100 was waived), and not surprisingly there were no takers.

But they didn't reckon on Croft. The Glamorgan spinner has notched up a few first-class hundreds and has opened the batting for his country. But on Monday he was all guts as he held the fort for over three hours to deny the tourists victory.

Stewart, watching from the players' balcony had said that watching the last hour and a half felt like three days. Had England lost, his capability as captain would surely have been challenged in the media. As it is, the series is wide open.

Aside from Croft, credit must go to Angus Fraser who played out Allan Donald's final over to ensure the draw.

Fraser had been adjudged lbw in the first innings, a decision which was questionable, to say the least. And a few hearts missed a beat when Donald let out a massive shout in the final ball of the over Fraser needed to play out. But justice was served.

The Test has left a sour taste on two fronts. Attendances in Manchester were well down on last year and England's dismal bowling and first innings batting performances prompted commentators to question whether the game in England is in permanent decline.

Lord MacLaurin, Chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, has called an end-of-season meeting of all 18 counties to discuss the future of the game. The consensus is that the proliferation of one-day cricket, combined with forced declarations in the four day game, is exposing batsmen to instant run chases rather than helping them sharpen their skills in building Test-style innings.

AT one point on Friday afternoon, Tim Henman was approaching immortality. At one set all against the mighty Pete Sampras in the Wimbledon semi-final, Henman was marginally getting the better of the American before the form book took over and Henman capitulated. The British No. 2's magnificent run at Wimbledon has raised his world ranking to 13 and with Sampras predicting Henman will one day win Wimbledon, the future looks very bright.

Henman was the order of the day as the press compared clean-living Tim with the country's previous Wimbledon semi-finalist Roger Taylor (1973), and finalist Fred Perry (1936) and Bunny Austin (1938).

Austin, now a resident in a nursing home, told reporters who tracked him down that Henman was a better all-round player than he had been.

THE country has been embroiled in a football debate for the past week as to whether David Beckham was really the cause of the defeat against Argentina.

It's interesting to note just how fickle the British press can be. The media's hero of the tournament has undoubtedly been the clean living Michael Owen, who comes from a nice family, has a lovely local girlfriend and does not court the limelight like some other super-heroes.

Could this be the same Owen who was sent off in the Manchester United-Liverpool game in April for an ugly two-legged lunge at Gary Pallister, or who was dismissed for violent conduct as an England youth player?

But to Owen's great credit, and this is probably the difference between him and other megastars like Beckham and Paul Gascoigne, Owen seems to have learned from past indiscretions, and all credit to him for that.

Beckham has gone from hero (brilliant free kick against Colombia), to villain for an act of petulance. Interestingly, as the England players were whisked back from France on Concorde, Beckham hung around the airport for an hour and then flew in the same Concorde to New

York to join up with his girlfriend.

"I'll never live it down" he told reporters - his reported yearly earnings of £8 million might just help.

And what about poor David Batty whose penalty miss cost England so dear. One couldn't help noticing that Batty cut a figure of the true pro as he trudged off the field. No tears for this solid piece of Britain, son of a Leeds refuse collector.

No, for Batty, it was another day at the office and on the first day of the season, he'll be back in his Newcastle shirt scurrying after opponents as if the World Cup was a bit of overtime. That's the bulldog spirit - Batty had never taken a penalty in his career before, but volunteered for the guillotine.

Who needs war when we've got the likes of Croft and Batty?

WITH clubs regrouping for the domestic season, there has already been acrimony between south Yorkshire neighbors Barnsley and Sheffield Wednesday as the Owls successfully poached Barnsley boss Danny Wilson to take over from Ron Atkinson at Hillsborough.

Wilson, a former Wednesday player, had performed minor miracles at Barnsley, taking the club to the Premiership for a historic season, and although they were relegated immediately, he had pledged himself to the Tykes. But Wednesday found the task of filling the manager's post almost as difficult as finding the net with a series of high profile names being linked, and then rejecting the club.

Polster joins Moenchengladbach

BOON (Reuters) - Austrian World Cup striker Toni Polster has joined German club Borussia Moenchengladbach from relegated Cologne on a two-year contract.

Cologne will receive a transfer fee of around two million marks (\$1.1 million) for the 34-year-old striker.

Polster is expected to be one of the danger men when Austria host Israel in their Group 6 qualifying match for Euro 2000 in Vienna on September 5.

SPORTS

in brief

Lawn bowls interclub league begins

The national interclub seven-week lawn bowls league for both men and women commenced at the weekend.

In the Premier League each club is represented by two teams of triples, with two points awarded to a winning team, plus two bonus points for the better total combined shot difference.

First round Premier League results were:
Men: Kiryat Ono 4, Ramat Hasharon 2; Ramat Gan 6, Savoyon 0; Ra'anana 6, Kfar Hamaccabiah 0; Netanya 6, Haifa 0.
Women: Ramat Gan 4, Kiryat Ono 2; Savoyon 6, Netanya 0; Ra'anana 6, Ramat Hasharon 0.

In the Premier Division, clubs enter single teams of trips with two points for a win and one each for a peel.

First round results were:
Men: Jerusalem 20, Ramat Gan A 16; Ra'anana A 30, Ramat Hasharon 8; Ra'anana B 21, Ra'anana C 15; Ramat Gan B 26, Kiryat Ono 9; Ramat Hasharon B 13, Ra'anana D 12; Ra'anana E 26, Ra'anana F 10.

Women: Ra'anana A 29, Ra'anana B 5; Ramat Hasharon 18, Ramat Gan A 18; Ra'anana C 25, Ramat Gan B 10; Ra'anana D 17, Ra'anana E 11.

Norman Spiro

Pak wins US Women's Open on 20th playoff hole

KOHLER, Wisconsin (Reuters) - Pak Se-ri of South Korea won the US Women's Open golf championship on the 92nd hole when she birdied the par-4 11th - the 20th hole of Monday's playoff against American amateur Jenny Chusiriporn.

The 20-year-old Pak, an LPGA Tour rookie and winner of the LPGA Championship earlier this season, and Chusiriporn, 20, completed the regular 18-hole playoff at Blackwolf Run tied at two-over-par 73 before heading into sudden-death.

After both players parred the par-5 10th hole, Pak sank a 15-foot birdie putt at the 11th to become the youngest winner of the US Women's Open.

Saints snap up Blackburn winger Ripley

LONDON (Reuters) - Southampton have signed former England winger Stuart Ripley from premier league rivals Blackburn for a fee of £1.5 million.

The 30-year-old former Middlebrough player, who earned his solitary England cap against San Marino in 1994, is Southampton's second signing of the close season following the capture of midfielder David Howells from Tottenham.

Kobi Hacham repeats as Caesarea Golf Club champion

By HEATHER CHAIT

Last year's champion Kobi Hacham from Or Akiva repeated his success at this year's Caesarea's golf club championships, but he had to slog all the way to the title.

Three-time champions Neil Shochet and Avi Cohen were second and third respectively. Shochet led after the first round with 74, followed by Cohen on 75 and Hacham on 76.

In the second round, Cohen and Hacham led with 149 with Shochet one stroke behind. After 54 holes Cohen and Shochet were tied with 226 with Hacham on 227, setting the scene for the final day's climax.

After 66 holes, Hacham and Shochet were tied for first place but Hacham won one stroke up after 67 and when Cohen bogeyed the 70th and Shochet crashed with a double bogey, Hacham's triumph was sealed. With pars on the final two holes,

Hacham's 72-hole total was 303 with Shochet on 308 and Cohen 311. Leslie Ben-Amir was the gross winner in the two-day men's tournament with 160. Chuck Shaikowitz won the A net division with 150 and 14-year-old Ido Katzenelenbogen was second at 151.

The B division was won by 13-year-old Eilran Salach with a 194 gross while Jerry Glantz won the net division with 147.

Tamar Renassie retained her title

in the 36-hole women's championship with 168 strokes with Manuela Fishbein second with 186.

Carmen Pincovitch won the net with 152. The women's B division was won by Deborah Schur in the gross with 205 with Karine Waysman first in the net with 142.

The special 18-hole event on Friday was won by Ken Marui in the A division with a gross 85 with Leon Rosenberg first in the B division, a net event, with his 71.

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'Odd Couple' start All-Star game

DENVER (AP) — The Professor vs. The Paunch That was the matchup of starting pitchers for the 69th All-Star game at Coors Field last night, when studious-looking Greg Maddux faced David Wells, who might count pitches but not calories.

They are the game's odd couple: Maddux plays Felix Unger to Wells' Oscar Madison.

Maddux, a slight, unassuming man, wears glasses off the mound and works quickly on it, nibbling at the corners, a master of location and deception.

The only pitcher in major league history to win four consecutive Cy

Young Awards (1992-95), Maddux, 32, was appearing in his seventh All-Star game. At the break, the Atlanta ace is one of only three pitchers in the majors with 12 wins at 12-2 with a 1.54 ERA with four shutouts.

The portly and eccentric Wells, listed at 225 pounds but weighing closer to 245, has the rumpled look of a common man who loves to share beers with fans at the local tavern — and probably has. He favors heavy-metal music and has tattoos of his late mother and son on his chest and shoulder, respectively.

While hardly a perfect physical specimen, he threw only the 13th

perfect game in modern baseball history, beating Minnesota on May 17 in Yankee Stadium. The 35-year-old left-hander has an 11-2 record and 3.75 ERA for New York at the break.

Any game at Coors Field figures to be high-scoring, but at least one of the participants isn't so sure.

"With these two starting pitchers, I don't know if it's going to be a high-scoring game," Ken Griffey Jr. said. "Maybe a quick game."

Maddux, who has made no secret of his dislike for Coors Field, to the point of telling several Rockies pitchers he would

never sign with Colorado because of the ballpark, took a less harsh line on Monday.

Asked if he was looking forward to pitching there, he said, "Yes, I am. These games are great to play in. It's almost like spring training. There is no pressure to win or anything like that. You just go out and play the game and have fun."

"Obviously, your slider doesn't slide as much and your curve doesn't curve as much, but you can still pitch here. The biggest difference is the outfielders have to play a little deeper, and you're concerned about the extra-base hit. You just have to pitch smart."

All-Star Lineups
(Last night's 69th All-Star Game, Coors Field, Denver)

American League
Kenny Lofton, Cleveland, 1b
Roberto Alomar, Baltimore, 2b
Ken Griffey Jr., Seattle, cf
Juan Gonzalez, Texas, rf
Jim Thome, Cleveland, lf
Alex Rodriguez, Seattle, ss
Ivan Rodriguez, Texas, c
Cal Ripken Jr., Baltimore, 3b
David Wells, New York, p

National League
Craig Biggio, Houston, 2b
Tony Gwynn, San Diego, rf
Mark McGwire, St. Louis, lf
Barry Bonds, San Francisco, cf
Chipper Jones, Atlanta, 3b
Mike Piazza, New York, c
Larry Walker, Colorado, cf
Walt Weiss, Atlanta, ss
Greg Maddux, Atlanta, p

SPORTS

in brief

Anything for a beer

Here's a new sport for those bored with the usual fare — wife carrying. Two Estonian men, each seeking to win his wife's weight in beer, carried their partners on their backs to first and second places in the Wife Carrying World Championships in Helsinki, Finland.

The winning couple, Imre Ambos and Annela Ojaste, beat a field of 37 couples from eight countries. The top two finishers carried their wives upside down over their backs, a departure from previous years when the piggyback carry triumphed.

Reacting to suggestions that wife carrying was demeaning to women, the region's governor, Pjotr Ala-Kapee, said she approved of the contest. "If anything, it's uplifting," she said. "It's also authentic and exotic."

All in the K's

Strikeout king Roger Clemens obviously loves the letter K, baseball's scoring code for a strikeout. The Toronto Blue Jays pitcher's four children all have names beginning with K — Koby, Kory, Kacy and Kody.

Hero worship

Cleveland first baseman Jim Thome was so impressed when he saw Mark McGwire hitting home runs that he sent the St. Louis Cardinal slugger a 12-pack of beer. "He autographed it, and I will not break it open," McGwire said.

A Rose is a Rose

When the Cincinnati Reds dropped Pete Rose Jr. from their future plans, it didn't sit well with Junior's old man, who toiled for the Reds for 16 years.

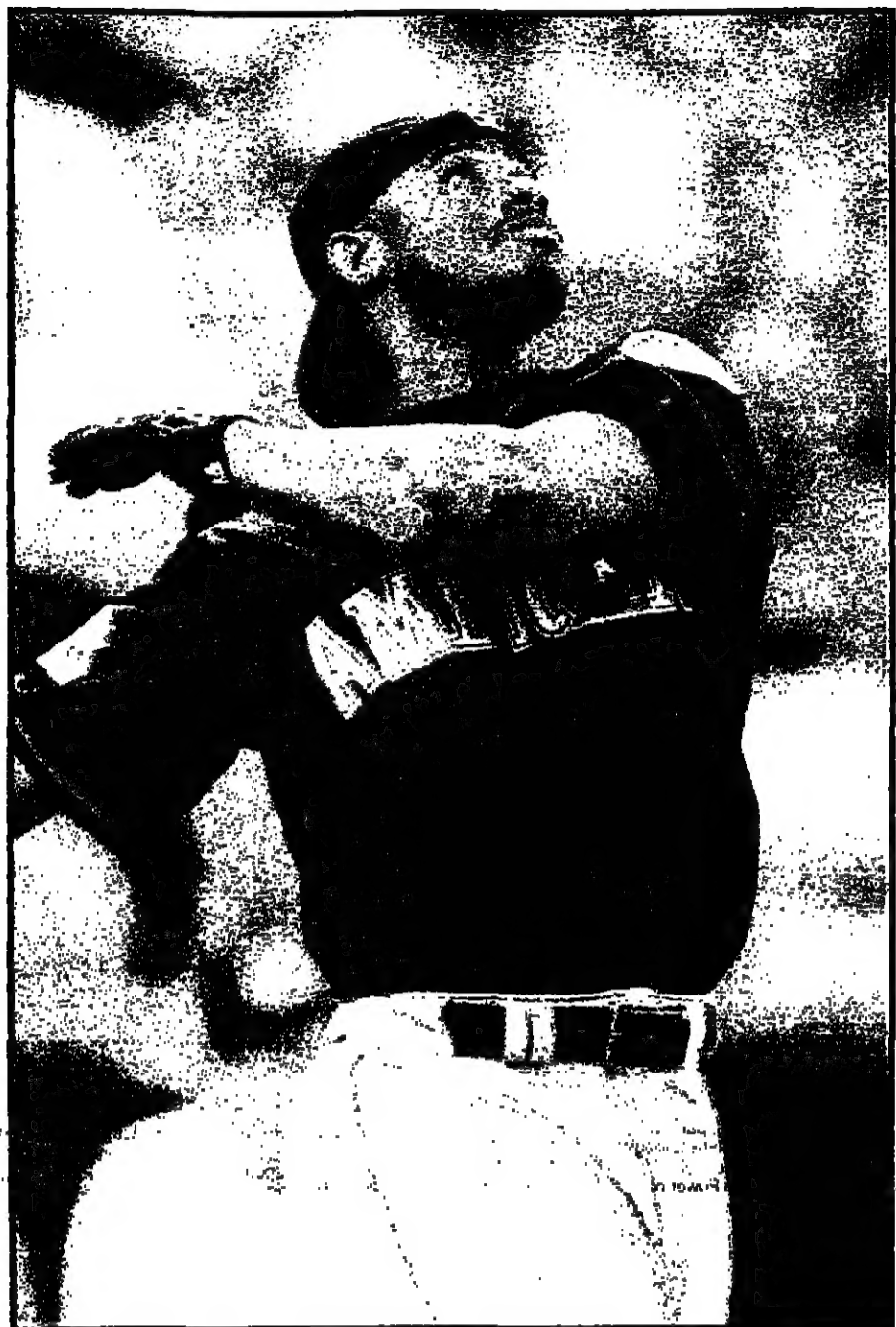
"There's too many players in the big leagues who can't play as good as my kid," said the elder Rose. "I just don't understand why he can't get a chance."

Rose Jr. is now playing with the triple-A Nashville Sounds, a Pittsburgh Pirate affiliate.

Saberhagen's secret weapon

When Bret Saberhagen's fastball was clocked between 78 and 81 mph in a Boston Red Sox victory against Montreal, he explained his success: "I think the guys over there thought, 'Geez, he's throwing a lot of changeups.' Those were fastballs."

(Los Angeles Times News Service)



STAR WARS — American League All-Star Ken Griffey, Jr. (l) and the NL's Mark McGwire compete in the Home Run Derby on Monday.

(Reuters)

Junior turns boos to cheers and wins Derby

DENVER (AP) — Junior surprised fans at the All-Star Home Run Derby, and so did Big Mac.

Ken Griffey Jr., the leading vote getter in fan balloting with more than four million votes, had intended to pass up the glamor event at this year's All-Star Game. But he changed his mind after being booed during batting practice and was a last-second entrant and winner.

"I don't like to get booed," Griffey said. "There were four million reasons why I did it."

And Mark McGwire, baseball's home-run leader, expected by many to win the competition or at least dent the Coors Field scoreboard in the mile-high altitude, hit just four homers and failed to get beyond the first round.

"I like the ball middle in, and the pitches were middle away," said McGwire, who did thrill the fans with a 510-footer — the longest of the day. So, sorry everybody.

Cleveland's Jim Thome, who choked last year in front of the hometown fans at

Jacobs Field by failing to hit one homer, finished second to Griffey, who outthundered him in the final 3-2.

Early Monday afternoon, Griffey was insisting he would pass up the chance to rocket balls through the thin Colorado air. He was booed loudly the first time he was introduced and fans continued to get on him during his batting practice swings.

But when his name was announced as the final AL entrant, he received a warm ovation and by the time he walked to the plate for his first round, many of the more than 50,000 were standing.

After connecting eight times to advance, he slowly walked back to the AL dugout, tipped his cap to the fans and hugged his 4-year-old son, Trey.

Then it was McGwire's turn. He hit two weak grounders before driving one over the wall in straightaway center, hitting a sign just below the Rockpile section of seats. The announced estimated distance of 510 feet surpassed the unofficial stadium record, a 496-foot shot hit by Mike Piazza

last year.

Thome, Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro, Colorado's Vinny Castilla and Houston's Moises Alou all finished the first round with seven homers, but Alou was eliminated because he has less regular-season homers than the others.

Atlanta's Javy Lopez and Seattle's Alex Rodriguez had five homers each. Detroit's Damian Easley led off the event and managed just two homers, one more than the Braves' Chipper Jones.

Griffey, the 1994 champion, spent more than an hour before the event defending his decision to skip it.

"I made my decision a month ago," he said when asked if anyone had tried to change his mind. "Isn't this an invitation? Don't you have the right to say that you want to do it or don't want to do it? It's not like they held a gun to my head and said, 'you're doing it.' They asked me, and I said no."

Fortunately, McGwire didn't. In fact, McGwire has had a difficult time saying no

to anyone lately.

His pursuit of Maris' record is the talk of baseball, and recently the Cardinals placed restrictions on the media in order to give McGwire a break from the constant attention.

"Well, I don't know if I'll ever enjoy it," McGwire said of dealing with the press. "That's just not me as a person. But I've come to realize that I have to do something about it, and that I have to talk about it."

Talk that he belongs among the great home-run hitters in history makes McGwire shake his head in disbelief.

"It still blows me away, it really does," he said.

"Considering that when I was a kid, all I wanted to do was pitch. It wasn't until my sophomore year in college that I turned into a hitter, never knowing I'd get a chance to go to the big leagues. The next thing you know, they're talking about my name along with Babe Ruth, Maris, Mantle down the line. It's overwhelming. I don't think it will really hit me until I'm retired."

With all the home run fuss, Rangers' Gonzalez overlooked

ALL-STAR NOTEBOOK

DENVER (AP) — What with all the fuss over Mark McGwire, Ken Griffey Jr. and Sammy Sosa, Juan Gonzalez was feeling neglected heading into last night's All-Star game.

Gonzalez has 101 RBIs, the second-highest total before the All-Star break behind Hank Greenberg's 103 in 1935.

"It's fantastic. What can you say? He's a great, great hitter," McGwire said Monday. "But you know, the sad thing, if somebody said, 'Who was the 1996 MVP in the American League?' I bet you nobody really knows — Juan Gonzalez. Every year, year in, year out, he just puts up the numbers. It just seems like he doesn't get the notoriety he should."

Gonzalez is on pace to drive in 188 runs and has a chance to break the record of 190, set by Hack Wilson in 1930.

Seems like old times

For Marlins fans who want to remember the good times, the All-Star game is the place. Five of the players who helped Florida win the World Series title and then got traded were picked for the team by Marlins manager Jim Leyland.

"I hadn't seen some of them for a while," said outfielder Moises Alou, now with Houston. "We'll get together and go out. To see this many here shows how good we were."

Outfielder Gary Sheffield, traded to the Los

Angeles Dodgers, said it was "great to be able to see each other again. We would have liked to defend the title. We didn't get the chance. That's more disappointing than anything."

Right-hander Kevin Brown, now with San Diego, echoed his former teammates when he said of the breakup: "I felt bad about it for a while. I'll see all of them before this is over."

Dodger blue Jeff Shaw touched the Los Angeles Dodgers' logo on his NL practice jersey's sleeve and was asked what he thought.

"Weird," he said. "Very weird."

Shaw was traded by the Cincinnati Reds to Los Angeles on Saturday. On Monday, preparing for the All-Star workout, the reliever was trying on some items in Dodger blue for the first time.

Shaw's jersey and hats arrived on time — actually, he had both Dodgers and Reds hats in his locker. But he had to borrow a pair of pants from new Dodgers teammate Raul Mondesi.

Those were sent in from Los Angeles.

Needing blue spikes, he borrowed some from

Los Angeles' Gary Sheffield. And needing a dark belt instead of a red Cincinnati version, he got a black one from the Rockies.

Bronco bomber All in all, he's glad he stuck to football.

On Monday, Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway swung a baseball bat in competition for the first time since he was a minor leaguer in the New York Yankees' farm system in the early 1980s.

Elway, 38, was a participant in the All-Star Hitting Challenge that featured four teams made up of a major league rookie, a retired All-Star and a celebrity. Teams earned points based on the distance of each hit, while bonus points were awarded for every home run.

Elway's team finished last despite a respectable performance by the Super Bowl-winning quarterback, who scored 100 points in the preliminary round.

Elway hit two homers during the batting practice for the competition, but he was disappointed with his showing when points were counted.

"WTP," Elway said in reference to his warning track power. "I was happy with batting practice. I hit a couple good. I got a little anxious. It was a lot of fun to be out there, though. It's been a long time since I've hit a baseball."

DENVER (AP) — Baseball's new leader is its old leader.

When baseball finally votes on a new leader tomorrow, Milwaukee Brewers owner Bud Selig will be the lone candidate. He said early and often he didn't want to become commissioner, that someone else should be found.

"I really meant that," Selig said as he prepared to travel to last night's All-Star game. "I love what I was doing. Many had said to me they wanted me to stay in some capacity. We argued. The rest is history."

So Allan Huber Selig won't be acting commissioner for life, after all.

His detractors say he's indecisive. His supporters say he's not impulsive.

Having watched Bowie Kuhn, Peter Ueberroth and Fay Vincent enrage owners with controversial actions, and A. Bartlett Giamatti become bogged down with Pete Rose, Selig decided the best decisions are often no decisions. He preferred to wait for a consensus to develop. Sometimes, that meant problems festered and opportunities were lost.

"I don't accept that criticism," he said. "When you look back at the last five years, it's been the most active five years in baseball history."

Going into tomorrow's meeting in Chicago, he was still avoiding direct questions regarding why he changed his mind about the job.

It's clear, though, why owners want him.

Baseball, a most conservative sport, has been transformed from one-man rule to an owner-friendly consensus government during Selig's reign as chairman of the 10-man executive council. This group seized power following Vincent's forced resignation on September 7, 1992, and installed Selig two days later.

Some of the highlights: • For the first time since professional major leagues began in 1871, the sport adopted regular-season interleague play, which began last year.

• Each league split into three divisions, wild-card teams were added to the postseason and an extra round of playoffs began in 1995.

• Selig's Brewers began the first major league team this century to switch leagues, moving to the NL this season.

• After years of contentious debate, large-market teams agreed to share a higher percentage of their local revenue with the small markets.

Some of the lowlights: • A catastrophic 230-day strike

Baseball Commissioners

Kenesaw Mountain Landis, 1920-44.
Happy Chandler, 1945-61.
Ford Frick, 1961-65.
William Eckart, 1965-68.
Bowie Kuhn, 1968-84.
Peter Ueberroth, 1984-89.
A. Bartlett Giamatti, 1989-92.
Fay Vincent, 1989-1992.
Bud Selig (acting), 1992-present.

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CRITICS' CHOICE



Drew Barrymore stars as a cute waitress in 'The Wedding Singer.'

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Stanley Sperber leads his Haifa Symphony Orchestra in the season finale with cellist Mischa Maisky playing Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Roco Theme* and the same composer's andante cantabile, and soprano Inese Galante singing Villa-Lobos's *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* and popular arias from operas by Mozart (*Don Giovanni* and *Die Zauberflöte*) and Puccini (*La Bohème*, *Gianni Schicchi* and *La Rondine*). Tonight and tomorrow at the Haifa Auditorium and Saturday at the Noga Theater in Jaffa, 8:30 p.m.; Saturday at 9 p.m.

Fowl Play, a new opera by Raymond Goldstein (music) and Jacobo Kaufmann (libretto), who also directs, premieres tonight at 8:30 p.m. at the Rebecca Crown Auditorium in Jerusalem within the opera workshop framework of the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music. The conductor is Aharon Harlap.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** **THE WEDDING SINGER** - Light as a feather and about as nourishing, this is a silly but entertaining romantic comedy that stars Adam Sandler as a suburban crooner who makes a living serenading newlyweds at a local reception hall, and Drew Barrymore as a cute waitress engaged to marry a big lug of a junk-bond trader. Director Frank Coraci and screenwriter Tim Herlihy understand the trifling nature of their material and they do a good job of keeping things bubbly and proportional. Much of the humor here comes from the picture's comic-book approach to its time frame. The year is 1985, the clothes are tacky and everyone's hair looks awful. And though it is a bit disconcerting to see such recent fads already treated as the stuff of ancient history, the filmmakers' exaggerated approach to their setting feels necessary. The story alone is too slight to sustain an entire picture, and by adding a bit of polyester sparkle, they give themselves more room to play. (Parental guidance suggested)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News Flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel
10:00 News
10:05 News Flash
10:10 Hot Shots
10:35 Deepwater Haven
11:00 Time Exposure
11:05 Hot Science
11:50 Piffus
12:00 Vacation TV
12:30 Star Trek - Deep Space 9
15:15 SpaceShip Earth 2

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Zap Free
15:35 X Men
15:55 Zap - Country
16:05 Lasso
16:30 Zap - Festival at Cherokee
16:45 Zap - seaside vacation
16:59 New Evening
17:05 Zap Free
17:30 USA High - new series
18:15 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Moment in Life
18:35 Cozy - Brazil
20:00 News
20:10 Celebrating the World Cup
21:00 News
21:45 France '98 - semi-finals
00:00 News
00:05 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (23)

5:45 Today's programs
5:45 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:05 Photo with Tel-Ad
6:45 Coffee with Tel-Ad
7:00 The Third Time
7:55 Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves
11:05 Empty Nest
12:00 Amazing Stories
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
12:40 My Secret Identity
13:30 Home and Away
14:00 Calculated Risk
14:30 Sesame Street
15:00 Reading Point
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Rafi
17:30 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
18:00 Lingo
18:30 Israel Music
18:35 Ramat Aviv
Gimme!
20:00 News
21:00 Bravo
21:05 Tel Aviv Mix - new entertainment show
21:10 Home and Away
21:15 The X Files - cont.
00:00 News
00:05 The X Files - cont.
00:10 M.A.S.H.
00:15 1997 MTV Festival
00:20 The Red Sea Jazz
00:25 On the Edge of the Shelf

CHANNEL 3 (33)

15:30 Boogie's Dinner
16:00 Summer Studio
16:45 Local Pop
17:00 Color Garden
17:30 Children's Stories in Arabic
17:30 Dear Brother
18:00 Pique Nique
18:30 Cooling with Capri
19:00 Simply Style
19:30 Mind Your Business
20:00 New Evening
20:30 Tastes
21:00 The New 20th Century
22:00 Star Trek - Deep Space 9
22:45 Assignment Adventure

CHANNEL 3

7:00 E! TV: Sex on South Beach
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live (pt)
10:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
11:15 Angels Don't Cry (pt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 The John Laroquette Show
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Joanne
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 The Other Half
18:00 Trivia King (pt)
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:00 Prolifer
20:30 Suddenly Susan
21:00 The Young and the Restless
21:30 Ricki Lake (pt)
22:45 Sentinel
00:30 Babylon 5
1:30 Love Boat

JORDAN TV (31)

15:00 Holy Koran
15:10 Mr. Bogus
15:30 Oliver Twist
16:00 Musical Magazine
17:00 Nehoa
18:00 Acapulco Bay
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Show
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Police Academy
20:00 Our Special Reporter
21:00 Local Magazine

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Parallel Lives (1994) - a murder at a small college reunion brings old wounds to the surface
12:00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:45 Full House
21:10 Beverly Hills 90210

SECOND SHOWING (6)

6:00 Swiftly Seasoned
6:30 Porridge
7:00 Bergerac
8:00 The Oprah Winfrey

TV

MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:30 Garbert
17:30 Christian Station
17:45 Mori & Phil
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 Star Search
20:25 Newhart
20:50 Movie: Karate Kid 2
22:40 The Charm of Cinema
22:50 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

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PRIME TIME TV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19:30 Moment in Life Coby LA Heat	20:00 News Bravo	20:30 Players Profilier	21:00 France '98 Tel Aviv Mix	21:30 Beverly Hills 90210 Firehouse	22:00 Family Matters Married with Children The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Full House	22:30 Mysteries, Magic and Traces The Power of Kabbalah Gan Naul	23:00 Wildlife Horizons
22:30 Cyborg Cop II	23:00 Seinfeld	23:30 Ricki Lake	24:00 Island	24:30 Wild Horizons	25:00 Wild Horizons	25:30 Wild Horizons	26:00 Wild Horizons

22:00 Island (1988) - Australian drama about 1000 The Bold and the Beautiful
22:30 Santa Barbara
23:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:30 Nanny and the Professor
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Inside

Bud Selig slated for baseball's top job

Page 18

England's Welsh hero

Page 17

Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Next World Cup may be shorter, says FIFA

PARIS (Reuters) - The 2002 World Cup finals are likely to be up to a week shorter than the current tournament in France, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said yesterday.

Blatter said first round group games would probably be condensed into a shorter period and the tournament, being staged in Japan and South Korea, would be limited to around 28 days.

The present 32-day finals, which finish on July 12, are the longest ever. "Thirty-three days is really a long period for everybody," he said. "To attract world attention for 33 days is not easy."

Three or four matches a day would have to be played during the early group games in 2002 instead of two as at present and it might be necessary to play more simultaneously.

But he pointed out some teams had had a break of seven days between their first and second matches at the France finals and that it would be easy enough to reduce the gap to four days.

Blatter said 16 teams would be located in Japan and 16 in South Korea for the group games.

The system of moving teams between three different venues for each of their three group games, introduced in France, had proved popular and would probably be retained, he said.



WORLD CUP SEMIFINALS
Yesterday
Brazil 1, Holland 1
(Brazil advance to Sunday's final after winning 4-2 on penalties)
Today
France-Croatia, St. Denis 22:00
(Channel 1)

MARSEILLE (Reuters) - Champions Brazil beat the Netherlands 4-2 in a penalty shoot-out to reach the World Cup final last night.

The match ended 1-1 after extra time. Brazil met either France or Croatia who play the second semi-final at the Stade de France tonight. The final is on Sunday.

Taffarel was the Brazilian hero with two excellent saves from Phillip Cocu and Ronald de Boer as the champions won the shoot-out.

Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Emerson and Dunga all drove superb spot kicks past the helpless Edwin van der Sar.

Frank de Boer and Dennis Bergkamp kept it level at 2-2 but Cocu, possibly distracted by being ordered to place the ball properly on the spot, enabled the keeper to save to his left.

Ronald de Boer, needing to score to keep the Dutch in the match, checked on his approach but couldn't fool Taffarel who went full length to his right to push it to safety.

The match, hailed as the final before the final between two of the tournament's great attacking sides, only came alive in the second half but then produced a stirring finale.

Ronaldo had opened the scoring after just 24 seconds of the second period of normal time to give Brazil the lead.

The World Player of the Year had seized on a through ball from Rivaldo and showed great strength and balance to hold off the challenge of Phillip Cocu and slot the ball under Edwin van der Sar for his fourth goal of the tournament.



Brazil's Cesar Sampaio (right) tussles with Holland's Ronald de Boer during second-half action in their duel in Marseille last night.

But with only three minutes of normal time remaining Patrick Kluivert finally hit the target, heading home a Ronald de Boer cross unchallenged in the heart of the Brazilian penalty area to send the match into extra time.

The Dutch had scrambled last-minute wins against Argentina in the quarter-finals and Yugoslavia in the second round, and fully deserved their equalizer after pouring forward in the last 15 minutes.

The game never reached the heights neutrals had hoped for but Brazil, after a slow start, showed they would not give up their title

without a fight.

The best chance of the disappointing first half came when Boudewijn Zenden beat debutant Ze Carlos in the 29th minute and clipped in a great cross that Kluivert headed over. Kluivert again headed too high in the dying seconds of the half.

After the Brazilian goal the Dutch took a while to regroup and found the champions to be much keener for the fight than they had been in the first half.

But the Brazilian defence was never happy in the air and it was after the lanky Pierre van Hooijdonk came on as substitute

that Kluivert scored. The AC Milan striker had missed three great chances earlier in the match.

Brazil keeper Taffarel had to show great reactions in the 52nd minute to palm clear as Ronald de Boer diverted Kluivert's header.

Van der Sar was equally sharp as he raced from his line to smother at the feet of Ronaldo on the hour after a great touch by Bebeto.

The Dutch suffered a blow when they lost Michael Reiziger with a shoulder injury - the Barcelona right back had shut out the overlapping threat of Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos.

The reshuffle, bringing on Aron

Winter, caused confusion and allowed Ronaldo a clear run on goal in the 73rd minute. He seemed certain to get his second goal but Edgar Davids made up five meters and put in a great challenge. Ronaldo's shot bobbled agonisingly wide of the post.

Rivaldo went close in the 78th minute in a goalmouth scramble but Van der Sar eventually emerged with the ball.

Kluivert then blew a great chance 10 minutes from time when he played a one-two with Van Hooijdonk but blazed high from the edge of the box with just Taffarel to beat.

After the game moved into extra time, Ronaldo shimmied through to the edge of the area and shot hard but van der Sar flew to his left to save after five minutes.

Taffarel saved a van Hooijdonk free kick soon afterwards and Kluivert almost scored his second in the 103rd minute when his left foot shot shaved the far post after he latched on to a huge clearance from defence.

Frank de Boer saved the Dutch with a last minute tackle early in the second period of extra time which stopped Ronaldo getting in a shot as he advanced towards van der Sar in the area.

France, Croatia ready to make history in St. Denis tonight

PARIS (Reuters) - The World Cup can expect an explosion of national pride or the stunned silence of shattered dreams when France play Croatia tonight.

The Stade de France could resound to unprecedented celebrations as the hosts, one of 13 countries to compete in the very first World Cup in 1930, reach their first final after three times failing to get past the last four.

Or the crowd could be stunned as Croatia, with some of Europe's top players, become the first side in 64 years to reach the final in their World Cup debut and the first eastern European finalists since 1962.

"Make no mistake, we want to reach the final," declared Croatian defender Slaven Bilic, relishing the prospect of what is sure to be a nail-biting night in the northern Paris suburb of St. Denis.

All of France will be against him, including of course the organizing committee chairman Michel Platini who was in the French team that lost the 1982 and 1986 semifinals.

France, who beat Italy on penalties in the quarter-finals, are the favorites for a clash between the two sides with the best defensive records in the tournament but Croatia have absolutely nothing to lose and all to gain.

France have conceded just one goal, a penalty, in five games while Croatia, beaten by Argentina, have let in two.

But France have also failed to score within the 90 minutes since knocking in nine goals in the first round and have had two gruelling marathon matches while Croatia look to be hitting their peak right on schedule.

Both sides are aware that a place in history awaits.

"We want to go further than the French teams of the past," said defender Marcel Desailly. "When you mention the Platini generation to people, they immediately name three players - Platini, Alain Giresse and Jean Tigana."



CONFIDENT - French coach Aimé Jacquet answers a reporter's question yesterday.

"We want that to happen to us as well. We want to stay in history, we want people to remember our names," said Desailly, who played at AC Milan with Croatia's Zvonimir Boban after starting at FC Nantes under coach Miroslav Blazevic.

Blazevic, who also worked with French captain Didier Deschamps at Nantes and has tipped France to win the cup, believes his opponents have defensive weaknesses that can be exploited by a counter-attacking side like

his. The Croats, having dropped playmaker Robert Prosinecki, have used the wings to tell off in despatching Germany 3-0 in the quarter-finals, a win that did much to boost the lowest scoring side in the semifinals.

"Psychologically, it might have been easier to face Germany," said French coach Aimé Jacquet. "The most important thing is for us to go into this match with the same sort of confidence that we had when we faced Italy."

"I'm not surprised to see Croatia in the last four. They were clearly the better team against Germany. They have brilliant individuals, we knew that, but they also have a good organization and a compact defence." France are looking to attacking Juventus midfielder Zinedine Zidane, the most gifted playmaker the country has produced since Platini, who also filled that role at the Italian club.

Croatia have Mario Stanic outstanding in midfield and striker Davor Suker in full flow with four goals so far. One more would make him joint top scorer of the tournament, alongside Christian Vieri and Gabriel Batistuta.

French striker Christophe Dugarry, who tore his right thigh muscle against Saudi Arabia on June 18, is recovered but expected to be on the bench. Top scorer Thierry Henry, who strained a left ankle, is likely to start.

Youri Djorkaeff and fellow midfielder Emmanuel Petit, who took knocks in the game against Italy, are also fit.

Djorkaeff has been much criticised for poor performances so far but is determined to put the record straight. "I will score a goal against Croatia. I know it," he said on Monday.

Probable teams: France - 16-Fabien Barthez, 15-Lilian Thuram, 5-Laurent Blanc, 8-Marcel Desailly, 3-Zinedine Zidane, 7-Didier Deschamps (captain), 17-Emmanuel Petit, 6-Youri Djorkaeff, 11-Robert Pires, 10-Zinedine Zidane, 20-Thierry Henry.

Croatia - 1-Drazen Ladic, 4-Igor Simic, 6-Slavko Bilic, 20-Dario Simic, 17-Robert Jarni, 14-Zvonimir Boban, 7-Aljosa Asanovic, 10-Zvonimir Boban (captain), 13-Marco Simic, 9-Davor Suker, 19-Goran Vucinic.

Platt hangs up boots and prepares for management

LONDON (Reuters) - Former England captain David Platt ended his playing career yesterday and then set his sights on becoming one of Europe's top managers.

Platt, 32, left double winners Arsenal with a year to run on his contract to travel around Europe seeking advice from former bosses like Sven Goran Eriksson and Terry Venables on how to become a successful coach.

Multi-millionaire Platt, whose combined transfer fees total more than £22 million, may wait for up to a year before accepting his first managerial job.

Platt, who won 62 England caps, took the decision this summer after accepting he was no longer an Arsenal first team regular and admit-

ting that his best playing days were behind him.

The former Crewe, Aston Villa, Bari, Sampdoria and Juventus midfielder said: "I have enjoyed a fabulous career with some wonderful moments which I will always remember."

"However, I now feel the time is right to plan for the next phase of my life - a career in management and coaching."

"I believe the next step in turning from a player into a manager is much bigger than most people recognize and think that the great managers of the next millennium will be the ones who have prepared themselves the most professionally."

"I have had various player manager offers, but I realize that the start-

ing success I achieve in my first role will to a large extent determine my career thereafter - I want to serve the best possible apprenticeship and then hit the ground running."

Platt has already turned down approaches from Sheffield United and Southampton and is keen to avoid following in the footsteps of former England team mates Peter Shilton and Terry Fenwick who had unsuccessful management spells immediately after quitting their playing careers.

He will call upon advice from former mentors, who include former England coach Venables and Dario Gradi, the man who nurtured his talent as a youngster at Crewe.

Platt will also ask Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger for help after

Wenger agreed to release him from the final year of his contract.

Arsenal will retain his registration for the next year and will only seek a fee if he takes a job within 12 months.

Platt added: "I have learned a great deal from Arsene in the last year and I intend to consult with people and other contacts throughout the game."

"Arsenal were very good about my decision and it is a great feeling to have gone out at the very top, who rose to international prominence after scoring a spectacular last-minute winner against Belgium in the 1990 World Cup finals, made his last appearance for England two years ago in the Euro 96 semifinal defeat by Germany."

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Jerusalem 30/17
Beersheva 32/18
Haifa 30/23
Netanya 30/22
Ariel 34/18
Dead Sea 33/22
Eilat 38/25

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY
Paris 18/12
London 19/13
Berlin 17/11
Vienna 18/11
Budapest 22/10
Rome 26/13
Athens 33/22
Antalya 34/19
Istanbul 32/21
Moscow 24/14
Copenhagen 19/12
Warsaw 18/11
Minsk 22/13
Amsterdam 17/12

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